

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGIA

OCTOBER 2, 2021 ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE
BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY – SAKREBULO AND MAYOR OF
SELF-GOVERNING CITY/SELF-GOVERNING COMMUNITY

REPORT
(AUGUST 2 – NOVEMBER 13)

DECEMBER, 2021



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INTRODUCTION

The present document is the final report on the October 2, 2021 Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Self-Governing City/Self-Governing Community (Elections of Municipal Bodies). The report includes the description of the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections (I and II rounds).

Traditionally, the Election Administration conducted all the electoral processes in accordance with international standards, in full compliance with the election legislation and relevant time frames.

Amendments made to the Election Code paved the way for a significant electoral reform. The electoral system was amended and the proportion of Sakrebulo members to be elected through proportional and majoritarian contest in the self-governing cities/-self-governing communities was changed. These amendments led to some changes in terms of district boundaries and administration.

The rules on composing election commissions were changed, accordingly, the composition of commissions at all levels was increased from 12 to 17 members. The representation of parties was increased, thus consequently raising the level of their involvement in the electoral process. The increase in the number of commission members led to technical and logistical changes, which was a new challenge that the Administration successfully coped with, giving all commission members appropriate and equal working conditions during the election period.

The Parliament of Georgia¹ elected the new CEC Chairperson – Giorgi Kalandarishvili as well as two CEC members, while nine authorized parties² appointed commission members. The representation of the parties in the CEC management was increased. In particular, for the first time, the CEC Chairperson has two Deputies, one of whom was elected from the members appointed by those parties that are not in the parliamentary majority. A member appointed by P/U “Lelo” was elected³ as the Deputy Chairperson, who is authorized to act as the Chairperson in his absence.

At the initiative of the CEC Chairperson, several innovations were introduced, which significantly contributed to the transparency of the Election Administration. Among them, the livestreaming of the CEC sessions was especially noteworthy, which ensured

1 №869-Vrs-Xmp; №871-Vrs-Xpm; №874-Vrs-Xmp Resolutions of the Parliament of Georgia issued on August 2, 2021.

2 P/U Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia, P/U United National Movement, P/U Lelo, P/U Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli, P/U European Democrats of Georgia, P/U European Georgia, P/U European Socialists, P/U Aleko Elisashvili – Citizens, and P/U Girchi.

3 August 3, 2021 CEC Decree №103/2021

even more publicity of the Administration's activities and the involvement of the stakeholders⁴.

The Administration made great efforts to conduct the elections in a safe environment amid the pandemic. This was positively assessed in the preliminary report of the International Election Observation Mission⁵.

As a result of the Municipal Elections, through the proportional as well as majoritarian electoral systems, Georgian citizens of the whole country elected 2,068 members of 64 Sakreb-ulos and 64 mayors, including the mayors of five self-governing cities.

The electoral process was monitored by local and international observers, representatives of election subjects and the media.

4 "The technical preparations for the elections were efficient, and the election administration respected all legal deadlines. The CEC made commendable efforts to enhance the transparency of its work. Positively, it broadcast its sessions and most interviews for nonpartisan DEC positions online." National Democratic Institute (NDI), Report of the Limited Long-term Election Assessment Mission on the 2021 Municipal Elections in Georgia (September 1-November 5, 2021).

5 "Overall, the election administration managed the technical aspects of the process efficiently and complied with legal deadlines, amid adjustments made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic." International Election Observation Mission in Georgia, Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions on the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections, Composition of the International Monitoring Mission: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Parliament of Europe.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Regular Municipal Elections were appointed on the basis of the Decree of the President of Georgia⁶. October 2, 2021 was determined as the date of the elections.

At the session on August 3, the CEC adopted legal acts that were necessary for the organization of the Municipal Elections⁷. The Election Administration conducted the process in accordance with the approved schedule of electoral activities⁸.

The number of members at 76 DEC⁹s was 1,255, including 380 permanent members elected by the CEC, 219 temporary members elected until the announcement of the final election results during the election period and 656 temporary members appointed by the parties. For the second round of the elections, the number of members at 40 DEC⁹s amounted to 680, including 200 permanent members, 120 temporary members elected by the CEC and 360 temporary members appointed by the parties.

A total of 3,746 polling stations were established for the elections, of these, 3,664 precincts were set up by District Election Commissions. The CEC established nine special precincts in penitentiary institutions. Due to the pandemic, the CEC also set up 73 special polling stations to ensure the participation of voters in inpatient treatment facilities and in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) and to exercise their universal suffrage. The number of PEC members was 63,105. Members of election commissions at all levels signed the Code of Ethics¹⁰.

In line with the new concept of the training for the PEC members, which responded to the recommendations of observer organizations reflected in the reports on the 2020 elections, the CEC Training Centre made great efforts to properly prepare the election commissions for the first and second rounds of the elections. In particular, the number of the training stages for PEC members was increased to six. Additionally, in a pilot mode, with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES),

6 See №02/08/01 Decree of the President of Georgia issued on August 2, 2021 in the Annex 1.

7 The CEC issued decrees on the following issues: rules, conditions and terms of the competition for the selection of PEC members; rules, conditions and terms of the competition for the members of the precinct election commissions created in exceptional cases. The CEC approved the schedule of election activities. At the same session, the CEC determined the minimum number of the supporters' signatures required for the initiative group to nominate a candidate for Sakrebulo membership in the local single mandate majoritarian electoral district created for the elections; also the minimum number of the supporters' signatures required for the initiative group to nominate a mayoral candidate in the electoral districts, competitions for temporary members were announced in all District Election Commissions and a secretariat was set up.

8 August 3, 2021 CEC Decree №99/2021

9 Overall, 76 DEC⁹s are established throughout Georgia, of which 73 DEC⁹s consist of 17 members, and three, №31 Akhgori, №85 Liakhvi and №86 Upper Abkhazia DEC⁹s consist of five permanent members.

10 Out of 63,105 members of precinct election commissions, only few did not sign the Code of Ethics (mainly due to their absence).

the 7th stage of the training was conducted for PEC officials - e-learning program “Techniques for Drawing up a Summary Protocol on Voting Results”.

The CEC paid special attention to the issue of health safety of voters, all electoral stakeholders and election commissions amid the pandemic. Based on the above, the CEC updated and approved the Epidemiological Protocol for the Election Day, also the sanitary-hygienic rules which were followed by the voters, PEC members and the parties involved. During the election period, the CEC provided COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test for the Election Administration staff on a regular basis. Also, 62,305 members of PECs participating in the training were tested against Covid-19.

The Election Administration offered significant novelties to voters and stakeholders: new online service was launched - an electronic program for submitting complaints, the Information Security Center operated at the CEC, modified polling booths were set up at the precincts, and vote counting procedures were recorded at 3,200 polling stations.

For the first time this year, to further increase the credibility and transparency of the electoral process, the results of the polling stations identified by casting lots in each electoral district were recounted. It should be noted, that at the initiative of the CEC Chairperson, the results of an unprecedented number of election precincts were recounted, which significantly exceeded the amount defined by the law. As a result of the overall recounts, a slight change was made to the data, which did not affect the overall results.

In the framework of the electoral reform, as a result of the decision made in the format of the “Working Group on Parliamentary Reform” created in the Parliament of Georgia, the CEC was authorized to carry out some procedures by electronic means in the electoral process. Based on the above, in 31 polling stations of №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, the CEC implemented a pilot project of vote counting through electronic devices. It should be noted that the data counted with the use of electronic technologies were for informational purposes only, and the counting of election results at each polling station was done manually, in accordance with the procedures established by law. All these were subsequently reflected in the summary protocols of the precinct commissions. It should be noted that the results of electronic and manual counting coincided with 99.7 percent, which indicates that the voters clearly understood and followed the new voting procedure as accurately as possible. The members of the Precinct Election Commissions in №4 Krtsanisi electoral district underwent intensive four-stage training with the involvement of an instructor from an international partner organization. In order to participate in the elections, 111 electoral subjects were registered in the Election Administration. Of these, 43 subjects were parties and 68 - initiative groups of voters. Ten electoral subjects participated in the second round of the elections, nine of them were parties and one was an initiative group.

Party lists of 31 electoral subjects were registered at the CEC for the elections, while 739 party lists submitted by 33 electoral subjects were registered at the relevant District Election Commissions.

In total, 16 candidates were registered as mayoral candidates of Tbilisi. Besides, 24 people were registered as mayoral candidates of four self-governing cities, and 199 people were registered as mayoral candidates of 59 self-governing communities.

Also, 1,728 individuals were registered under the proportional electoral system as candidates for membership in the Sakrebulo – the self-governing body of Tbilisi. Total of 138 persons were registered on the basis of the majoritarian electoral system.

In addition, 18,895 candidates were registered for membership at 63 Sakrebulo of self-governing communities and self-governing cities (except for Tbilisi) under the proportional electoral system, and 2,633 candidates were registered under the majoritarian electoral system.

In order to facilitate the parties involved in the election process, at the initiative of the CEC, a meeting was held with the representatives of the political unions which had the opportunity to select an sequence number under the election legislation. At the CEC session on August 8, the sequence numbers of the electoral subjects were determined.

The Election Administration registered 21,515 representatives of 111 election subjects at all levels of the commissions for the first round of the Elections, and 5,309 representatives of 10 electoral subjects – for the second round.

In the second round of the elections, 84 candidates (nominated by 10 electoral subjects) with the best results participated in 42 majoritarian electoral districts.

In total, 31,311 observers from 100 local organizations, as well as 1,024 observers from 52 international observer organizations were registered by the Election Administration for the first round of the elections. Besides, 2,963 representatives of 119 press and media outlets were accredited.

For the second round of the elections, the Election Administration registered 35,198 observers from 100 local organizations at all levels of the election commissions, as well as 1,102 observers from 52 international observer organizations, and 3,711 representatives from 119 accredited press and media outlets.

As of October 2, the number of registered voters in the unified list of voters at 3,664 electoral precincts was 3,497,345. As of October 30, for the second round of the elections, the number of registered voters was 2,088,722 at 1,867 polling stations.

For civic and voter education, the CEC and the Training Centre implemented five educational projects with the participation of 15,503 individuals.

The CEC Chairperson and representatives of 24 local observer organizations signed the Code of Conduct (Code of Ethics).

The CEC Chairperson and the Minister of Internal Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with the purpose to conduct the voting process in a peaceful and free environment on the Election Day.

The Chairperson and officials of the CEC held important meetings with the representatives of various state agencies, the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia, and local and international observer organizations.

The CEC conducted a large-scale campaign to raise awareness on data verification in the unified list of voters, voting procedures and mandatory sanitary-hygienic procedures related to the pandemic.

The CEC also provided information to the voters placed at inpatient treatment facilities and being in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) about their participation in the elections.

The Election Administration processed and proactively published various statistical information, including by gender prospective.

On the Election Day, all polling stations were equipped with the necessary equipment, including the sanitary-hygienic facilities provided by the Epidemiological Protocol. Special services were available at the polling station for the people with disabilities (PWDs), and election documentation was provided in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages for the voters in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

On October 16, the CEC summarized the results of the first round of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections of Tbilisi City Council (Sakrebulo) and Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City (Capital of Georgia) held under the proportional electoral system. At the same session, the CEC scheduled the second round of the elections in five self-governing cities (Tbilisi, Poti, Rustavi, Kutaisi, Batumi), 15 self-governing communities (Telavi, Tianeti, Kareli, Khashuri, Tsageri, Baghdati, Tskaltubo, Ozurgeti, Senaki, Martvili, Khobi, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku, Khelvachauri), and in 24 electoral districts - under the majoritarian electoral system.

The second round of the elections was held on October 30, 2021.

On November 13, the CEC summarized the results of the second round of Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City (Capital of Georgia) and Elections of Tbilisi City Council (Sakrebulo). Besides, the CEC received information about the persons who were elected as members of the Sakrebulo and as Mayors during the October 2, 2021 Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Self-Governing City/Self-Governing Community according to the final protocols drawn up and enacted by the relevant election commissions.

With the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the CEC launched a new electronic service, the program for submitting complaints electronically. The mentioned e-service was one of the important technological and procedural innovations, through

which the Election Administration enabled political unions and observer organizations to submit complaints electronically to the CEC and DEC's in addition to submitting them in a material form. This significantly simplified the submission of complaints.

According to the CEC decision, the appellant was given the opportunity to participate remotely during the review of the complaint at the CEC, thus ensuring maximum involvement of the interested parties in the review process and the opportunity to better represent their positions amid the pandemic.

From the date of announcing the elections until their completion (first and second rounds), a total of 2,967 applications/complaints were submitted to the Election Administration. Of these, 70 applications/complaints were submitted to the CEC and 2,897 - to the District Election Commissions. Ten protocols on administrative violation were drawn up with regard to violations of the election legislation by the relevant authorized persons designated by the CEC Chairperson and District Election Commissions.

The adjusted budget for both rounds of the Municipal Elections amounted to 55,093,900 GEL. Total of 10,260,000 GEL was allocated from the Reserve Fund of the Government of Georgia to partially finance the second round.

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ELECTIONS

A number of legislative amendments were made to the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia” for the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections. These changes refined some norms, eliminated shortcomings and simplified some election procedures. In particular:

- The electoral system and the proportion of Sakrebulo members to be elected through the proportional and majoritarian contest in the self-governing cities/self-governing communities were changed (the electoral system became more proportionate). A two-round system (40% threshold) was established in the local majoritarian electoral districts. The electoral threshold was lowered to 2.5 percent in Tbilisi and to 3 percent in other electoral districts;
- The rules for staffing the Election Administration were changed. The composition of the CEC, district and Precinct Election Commissions was determined with no more than 17 members. Of these, nine members are appointed by the parties, and eight members are elected through a competition;
- The CEC Chairperson has two deputies, one is selected from the CEC members elected by the Parliament of Georgia, and another - from the CEC members who are appointed by the relevant authorized parties and are not members of the Parliamentary Majority of the Parliament of Georgia;
- The rule for leaving a complaint unconsidered was changed. The issue of leaving the complaints unconsidered will be reviewed collegially by the commissions instead of the commission chairperson. Also, in a number of cases, the deadlines for appealing and reviewing the decisions of election commissions/officials of commissions were increased;
- The rules for submitting complaints to the CEC and District Election Commissions were changed, and in addition to submitting them in material form, the authorized persons also have the opportunity to submit complaints electronically;
- The so-called Registry of Entrusted Persons was established. In the corresponding electronic registry, authorized parties/observer organizations have the right to register a person who will be authorized to appeal against the relevant decisions; The decision of the CEC/DEC Chairperson on refusal to draw up a protocol on an administrative offense will be subject to appeal;
- The range of persons who are prohibited from conducting pre-election agitation and participating in agitation during working hours and/or during the direct exercise of official powers was increased;
- Radius (distance) around the polling station was increased. In particular, it is not allowed to physically impede the movement of voters in the polling station or within 100 meters of the polling station on the Election Day. Also, it is not allowed to gather people or register voters within 100 meters of the polling station on the Election Day. Moreover, in case of non-compliance with the police instructions on the prevention of the above administrative offenses, the person authorized by the

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall draw up a protocol on an administrative violation and impose the administrative liability on the offender;

- Gathering of public servants, employees of legal entities under the public law, employees of non-profit (non-commercial) legal entities established by the state or municipality, directors, teachers, caregivers, tutors of pre-school education and general education institutions established by the state or municipality shall also be considered as the use of administrative resources;
- A record was removed from the Election Code with regard to drawing up an amendment protocol of the Precinct Election Commission (if necessary) no later than during the day after the polling day. After putting the seal of the Precinct Election Commission and signing it by all PEC members, it is prohibited to draw up an amendment protocol;
- In case the number of votes cast for the election subject, the total number of voters participating in the elections and/or the amount of invalid ballot papers are changed in the summary protocol of the Precinct Election Commission, but no protocol on amendment is drawn up, the District Election Commission is obliged to open the relevant documentation, recalculate the voting results and amend the data of the summary protocol drawn up by the PEC (if necessary);
- No later than the 6th day after the Election Day, each District Election Commission is obliged to identify five polling stations from the electoral precincts in the district at the commission meeting by random sampling, to open the packages received from the precinct election commissions of these polling stations and to recount the ballots. The random sampling aimed at identifying randomly selected polling stations shall not take into account the polling stations where the electronic ballot counting machine is located;
- Voters using wheelchairs can participate in the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections at any adapted polling station in the territory of the relevant local majoritarian electoral district. For that, they must apply to the relevant district or precinct election commission no later than within 6 days prior to the polling day; For the Municipal Elections, the CEC was empowered to carry out some procedures by various electronic means.

II. MAJOR INNOVATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION DURING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Pilot Project №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District

In the framework of the electoral reform, the electoral legislation was amended as a result of the decisions made by consensus about various election issues (including the introduction of electronic technologies) within the “Working Group on Parliamentary Reform”¹¹ created in the Parliament of Georgia. According to the mentioned amendment, the Election Administration was given the opportunity to carry out some procedures in the election process by electronic means.

Following the legislative change, through the efforts of the Chairperson and officials of the CEC, the new composition of the CEC was able to find ways and organize the implementation of the pilot project in a short period of time.

During the Municipal Elections (first and second rounds), the Election Administration implemented a pilot project that used modern technologies to conduct some procedures electronically on the polling day.

In the first stage, in order to identify the possibilities of using new technologies, the Election Administration studied the international “good practice”, held working meetings with representatives of international and local organizations and with various companies focused on election technologies.

In order to implement the project, Smartmatic International B.V. was selected, which is a global provider of electoral technology and services and is registered in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The company implemented the project free of charge. As part of the pilot project, a precinct count optical scan (PCOS) was selected from electronic counting technologies.

№4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, which included 31 polling stations with 41,314 registered voters, was identified as an area for the pilot project implementation. Krtsanisi Electoral District, where the pilot project for the electronic voting was fully implemented, was distinguished by its urban, ethnic and social diversity. The district included both the central districts of Tbilisi and the village of Ponichala. The village was populated by ethnic minorities, as well as a significant number of people with disabilities, especially the blind and visually impaired. All this allowed the Election Administration to simultaneously test electronic technology in different conditions and with various social groups.

11 With the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID / Georgia), the meetings were conducted in the format of the “Working Group on Parliamentary Reform” created in the Parliament of Georgia.

The Election Administration developed procedures and conditions for the implementation of the pilot project, as well as approved the forms of ballot paper and special frame/envelope. A tactile ballot guide/form was prepared for blind voters.

The members of the Precinct Election Commissions in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District underwent intensive four-stage training, including relevant instruction on voting issues for voters with disabilities and guidelines for the pilot project. An information poster was placed at the polling stations to inform the voters.

The CEC conducted mock elections using electronic technologies at the polling station in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District. In total, 823 voters were registered on the voters' list to participate in the mock elections. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, parties and the media observed the mock voting process.

Raising voters' awareness and confidence in the use of election technologies was of no less importance and the Election Administration conducted an effective information campaign in this direction.

On the E-day, technology of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) allowed voters to make a choice on a paper ballot and then placed it in the mentioned scanner itself.

The scanner ensured the following: the ballot paper was read, it was placed in the ballot box, the votes were counted and the voting result receipt was printed. The main advantage of this technology over other electronic technologies was that the voters could make a choice on a paper ballot, which made it relatively easy for them to vote.

This technology allowed the Election Administration to get accurate results in both print and electronic form as soon as the voting was over. If necessary, these results could be verified by counting the ballots. This opportunity was used during the pilot project in all polling stations. After the preliminary results were printed from the vote counting machines, the ballots were counted by hand, on the basis of which the summary protocols on the voting results were drawn up.



There was a circle in front of each election subject in the ballot paper, coloring any circle meant voting for the respective candidate.

Instead of circling the election number, the voter colored the circle in front of the desired candidate with a special marker.

After placing the ballot, the device perceived the colored circle and considered it as a vote for the respective candidate. If, instead of coloring the circle, a voter circled the circle in front of the subject, election number or name, the mark was not perceived by the apparatus as a vote and therefore it was not counted.

By the decision of the CEC, the general rule established under the Election Code was applied for the manual counting of ballot papers, according to which any marking that could determine the will of the voter was considered as voting. Despite the rules that

were strictly defined for the device or applied to manual counting, the electronic and manual counting results coincided by 99.7 percent, indicating that the voters clearly understood and followed the new voting procedure as accurately as possible.

In total, 18,313 citizens participated in the first round of the elections, which was 44.3% of the total number of voters.

In the first round of the Elections, a small challenge was created due to the printing error of the ballot paper and voting in three polling stations was carried out without the vote counting machines. It should be noted that voting in these electoral precincts was carried out uninterrupted with the same ballot papers, but instead of a counting machine, the ballot paper was placed directly in the ballot box. The mentioned deficiency was thoroughly investigated and rectified so that no problem with the ballot scanning was identified during the second round. This fact clearly indicated the importance of the pilot project, the correctness of the selected technology and its effective administration.

In the second round of the Elections, the CEC representatives polled voters (leaving the polling building) in all electoral precincts in Krtsanisi on the principle of random sampling regarding electronic voting technology. Up to 600 voters were interviewed, of these, 97% liked the technology presented; 98% did not find difficulty while voting with the new technology; 94% thought it was more reliable than the traditional manual counting; and 94% supported the full introduction of the new technology in Georgia. The results of the survey showed the attitude of the voters towards electronic voting technologies.

Importantly, the data counted with the use of the electronic technologies was for informational purposes only. Counting of election results was done manually at each polling station, in accordance with the procedures established by law, which were subsequently reflected in the summary protocols of the precinct commissions.

Information Security Center of the CEC

On August 16, the Information Security Center and a monitoring group were established at the CEC with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The selected monitors underwent special training on media standards and detection of false information, they were tested and passed the probation period. After that, the Election Administration continued the monitoring process independently.

During the reporting period, the TV, online media and social network “Facebook” were monitored. Statistical and review reports were produced which are available on the CEC website.

During the reporting period, the Information Security Center processed 11,502 pieces of information related to election issues or directly to the Election Administration. Based

on the processed data, on 1,257 occasions during the entire reporting period, the information about the Administration and its activities was disseminated containing elements of discreditation, misinformation, manipulation and other harmful behavior. Among them, 84% was reported by respondents and 16% by the media.

Video materials about the facts revealed by the Information Security Center were periodically spread on the website and social networks.

The goal of the Information Security Center was to protect voters from misinformation about the elections and electoral processes. The task of the Center was to detect misinformation, protect and circulate correct information, and prevent potential misinformation threats.

Modification of Polling Booths



To prevent the control of the the will of voters and the ballot paper from being taken out of the polling station, the full composition of the CEC members supported the modification of the polling booth with full consensus and approved the form of a polling booth (see the photo) for the October 2, 2021 Elections of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Tbilisi¹².

During the first round of the elections in Tbilisi, voting booths with updated design were installed in all polling stations in Tbilisi and they were cut from the front to ensure the secrecy of the voting process. In the second round of the elections, voting booths with updated design were set up at all polling stations where voting took place.

Video Recording of the Vote Counting Process

The issue of video recording of the vote counting process was raised as a result of the implementation of the electoral reform. Pursuant to the Article 203 of the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, the CEC, by full consensus, adopted an ordinance¹³ and defined a rule for video recording of the vote counting process during the Municipal Elections, which would ensure maximum transparency and raise confidence towards the counting process.

As a result of a consensus reached by the “Working Group on Parliamentary Reform” created in the Parliament of Georgia, within the framework of the electoral reform, the political union of citizens “Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia” handed over 3,700 video cameras to the Election Administration for temporary use, on the basis of a borrowing agreement.

Throughout the whole country, the PEC members who would perform video shooting at the polling station were trained and were given instruction in video recording of the counting process. It should be noted that the proper use of video recording equipment at the polling stations and the video shooting of the vote counting process were carried out by the PEC members.

¹² September 26, 2021 CEC Decree №330/2021

¹³ August 23, 2021 CEC Ordinance №55/2021

These PEC members were selected by casting lots from the commission members appointed by the relevant authorized parties which are not in the parliamentary majority.

The video recording was carried out in a pilot mode in №4 Krtsanisi electoral district, where the quality of video shooting was checked from both short and long distances. As a result, the CEC made an optimal decision for quality video recording of the vote counting process.

On September 2, the CEC Chairperson, the Rectors of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Sokhumi State Universities, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the involvement of the University students in the election process to ensure transparency of the counting process. Under the Memorandum, students and alumni of the relevant qualifications at the mentioned universities participated in the process of uploading the video material on the google drive platform.

In the first round of the Municipal Elections, the vote counting process was recorded at 3,200 polling stations, and in the second round – at 1,749 electoral precincts. The video material was uploaded to the google drive platform in the shortest possible time (on the third day in the round I, while during the round II, instead of the second day, the fifth day was set by the decree) and all interested parties had the opportunity to view the video material until December 31, 2021.

Video recording was implemented in all polling stations where the number of voters was more than 300, which was 95% of the polling stations, and 98.5% of the total number of the voters.

Video cameras were placed at polling stations in such a way that the vote counting process and the location of the ballot papers from the opening of the ballot box to the end of the vote counting were fully visible. Video shooting was also used during the recount of the polling station results.

At the initiative of the CEC Chairperson, the video recording process was coordinated by Ivane Norakidze, a CEC member appointed by the party “Aleko Elisashvili – Citizens”.

Recount of the Polling Station Results

In 2021, for the first time, the Election Administration (District Election Commissions) had the obligation to recount the data of five polling stations identified by random sampling as part of the legislative reform. However, in the second round of the Municipal Elections, on the recommendation of the CEC Chairperson, the District Election Commissions identified 7 polling stations.

As of October 10, the Election Administration had counted the results of 812 electoral precincts. Of these, the data of 360 polling stations was revealed by random sampling based on an amendment to the legislation, at 195 electoral precincts – on the basis of a complaint, and at 257 polling stations – on the recommendation of the CEC Chairperson.

From these data, it was found that in 67% of the electoral precincts the results did not change, while in 121 polling stations they were changed slightly, which did not affect the election results.

On October 9, on the recommendation of the CEC Chairperson, the District Election Commissions recounted: the results of 257 polling stations, where complaints requesting recount were mainly submitted by the observation missions; the data of Precinct Election Commissions where a large number of invalid ballots were recorded. DEC's decided to recount the results of specific Precinct Election Commissions on the basis of a recommendation. The process of recounting the ballot papers was reported to the election subjects and observer organizations, whose representatives were present at the counting of the ballots at the polling station.

Out of 257 polling stations, the result did not change in 197 electoral precincts. As for 60 Precinct Election Commissions, little change was made to actual votes and invalid ballots.

- In total, election subjects at 60 polling stations lost 24 votes and received 53 additional votes;
- Mayoral candidates lost 5 votes and gained 41 votes;
- Majoritarian candidates lost 13 votes and received 82 additional votes.
These data did not affect the existing results.

Quorum was not reached in several electoral districts (i.e., the full majority of commission members were not present), while in some cases party-appointed commission members did not support the recount, and polling station results could not be recounted on the recommendation of the CEC Chairperson.

On November 1, after the second round of the elections, the results of 274 polling stations were recounted. Of these, 201 electoral precincts were identified by casting lots, 58 – at the initiative of the CEC Chairperson, and 15 – at the initiative of the districts.

On May 1-2, as part of the Mayoral Elections, the results of 194 precincts were recounted and the data at 172 polling stations remained unchanged. In total, the mayoral candidates lost 31 votes and gained 53 votes.

As part of the Elections of the majoritarian members of Sakrebulo, the results of 33 polling stations were recounted and the data in 27 cases remained unchanged. In total, the majoritarian candidates lost seven votes and gained five.

On November 2, on the recommendation of the CEC Chairperson, the data of additional 58 polling stations were recounted by random sampling as the vote counting process had not been recorded there. According to the recounted data of 58 polling stations, the results remained unchanged in 44 electoral precincts and slightly changed in 14 polling stations. Among them, in different electoral districts P/U United National Movement lost six votes and gained three votes, P/U Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia lost five and gained 39 votes, and P/U Gakharia - for Georgia lost 34 votes. The results of the recounts did not affect the preliminary results of the second round, not only according to the electoral district, but also according to the polling station.

III. Activities Implemented to Prevent the Spread of New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Infection (COVID-19)

The CEC actively cooperated with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia to conduct the elections in a safe environment. Based on the amendments to the Ordinance №975 issued by the Government of Georgia on June 15, 2020, during the first and second rounds of the Municipal Elections, the CEC provided COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test for the Central and District Election Commissions, as well as for the staff of the Training Centre, once a week. In order to participate in the training programs conducted by the Election Administration/Training Centre, 62,305 PEC members were tested at 191 locations for the first round and at 144 locations for the second round. Besides, the persons authorized to be present on the E-day and during the counting at the polling station were tested. The CEC, in coordination with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), carried out a two-stage voluntary vaccination process for the staff of the Election Administration and the Training Centre.

Sanitary-hygienic Requirements for Entering/Leaving and Being Present/Moving in the Polling Buildings Owned by and/or Transferred to the Election Commissions

At the session on August 23, the CEC adopted a decree on “Establishing Sanitary-hygienic Requirements for Entering/Leaving and Being Present/Moving in the Polling Buildings Owned by and/or Transferred to the Election Commissions”¹⁴. The Decree served to facilitate the exercise of powers for the parties involved through protection of health security and was discussed at a meeting with representatives of local NGOs before approval. All the important views expressed by them were shared and taken into account in the Decree.

The Decree stipulated the obligation to carry out the requirements for thermal screening, using face mask (with concrete rules), cleaning of work equipment with disinfectants, natural ventilation of the election commission building and observance of other sanitary-hygienic requirements. An important record was the norm specified in the Article 1(b) of the Decree, which, on the basis of a written application, allowed the complainant to present another person for replacement in the event of a having temperature.

Apart from that, on the polling day, the Election Administration was authorized to allow visitors (except for the election commission member, CEC staff member, support and technical staff of DEC, representative of the Central and relevant District Election Commission) at the entrance of the CEC/DEC administrative building only in case of presenting a negative result of the rapid/PCR test.

14 August 21, 2021 CEC Decree №51/2021

Epidemiological Protocol for the E-day

On August 23, the CEC issued an ordinance on “Several Electoral Activities for Preventing the Spread of New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Infection (COVID-19) for the E-day of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections and Establishing Some Sanitary-hygienic Requirements”¹⁵.

The document defined the sanitary-hygienic rules to be observed by the voters while participation in the elections, and by PEC members and electoral stakeholders while carrying out their activities. The document regulated the rules on entering, leaving, staying, moving at a polling station, thermal screening, using face mask, replacing an authorized person by another person on the Election Day.

In order to inform the voters and electoral stakeholders about the mentioned sanitary-hygienic procedures, the Election Administration conducted a large-scale information campaign.

Development of Mandatory Rules and Recommendations to be Considered when Organizing Voting in Inpatient Treatment Facilities and Quarantine Spaces

On August 23, the CEC issued an ordinance on “Participation of Voters in Inpatient Treatment Facilities and in Isolation (Quarantine, Self-isolation) during the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections, Establishment of Polling Stations and Special Groups, Determination of Certain Electoral Measures and Sanitary-hygienic Requirements”¹⁶. The mentioned document regulated the rules for establishing polling stations and special groups for the electoral participation of the voters placed at inpatient treatment facilities and being in isolation.

Sanitary-hygienic Means

The following quantities of sanitary-hygienic means were purchased by the CEC for both rounds of the elections to promote the conduct of the elections in a safe environment: 300 000 pieces of disposable face masks, 42 500 liters of hand disinfectant solution, 35 150 liters of disinfection solution, 4 000 face shields, 2 000 pieces of disinfection barriers, 500 remote thermometers, 3 000 000 disposable pens, etc.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) donated 4,000,000 face masks, 105,000 face shields, and 28,000 liters of disinfection solution to the Election Administration as a commodity grant to promote the conduct of the elections in a safe environment.

¹⁵ August 23, 2021 CEC Ordinance №52/2021

¹⁶ August 23, 2021 CEC Ordinance №53/2021

IV. Election Administration of Georgia

Administration of the Municipal Elections was ensured by the CEC, the CEC Apparatus, District and Precinct Election Commissions.

CEC Composition

Giorgi Kalandarishvili, CEC Chairperson, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Giorgi Sharabidze, Deputy Chairperson, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Giorgi Sioridze, Deputy Chairperson, P/U “Lelo”

Giorgi Javakhishvili, CEC Secretary, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Archil Anasashvili, CEC member, P/U “Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia”

Ana Kobakhidze, CEC member, P/U “Giorgi Vashadze – Strategy Aghmashenebeli”

Ia Pirtakhia, CEC member, P/U “European Democrats of Georgia”

Davit Jinjola, CEC member, P/U “European Georgia”

Nino Basilaia, CEC member, P/U “European Socialists”

David Kirtadze, CEC Member, P/U “United National Movement”

Ivane Norakidze, CEC member, P/U “Aleko Elisashvili – Citizens”

Levan Jgerenaia, CEC member, P/U “Girchi”

Giorgi Dzagan, CEC Member, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Dimitri Javakhadze, CEC Member, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Giorgi Chikaberidze, CEC Member, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Gia Tsatsashvili, CEC member, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Maia Zaridze, CEC member, elected by the Parliament of Georgia

Between August 2-November 13, the CEC conducted 30 sessions. The CEC adopted 33 decrees and 275 ordinances.

At the CEC sessions, an electronic (voting) program was introduced for the selection of the members of the lower level commission being under the authority of the commission.

All the CEC sessions were live streamed¹⁷.

¹⁷ “The CEC sessions were open to stakeholders, and also streamed live for the first time, contributing to transparency. The CEC enjoyed varying degrees of confidence, however, its new pluralistic composition enhanced the level of discussions at its sessions.” International Election Observation Mission in Georgia, Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions on the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections.

The CEC Apparatus and the Training Centre

- Legal Department;
- Public Relations Department;
- Finance Department;
- Electoral Information Technology Department;
- Coordination, Planning and Reporting Department;
- Human Resources Management and Workforce Security Department;
- Election Process Management Department;
- Office of the CEC Secretary;
- Information Security Manager;
- Spokesperson

LEPL Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Training Centre (the Training Centre)

District Election Commissions

For the Municipal Elections, the number of the members in 76 District Election Commissions amounted to 1,255. Of these, 380 permanent members were elected by the CEC through the nominal voting with no less than two thirds of the membership, for a five-year term. Total of 219 temporary members were elected for the electoral period until the announcement of the final results of the elections. After the appointment of the elections, nine authorized parties appointed 656 temporary members.

For the second round of the elections, the number of members at 40 District Election Commissions amounted to 680, of which 200 were permanent members, 120 were temporary members elected by the CEC, and 360 were temporary members appointed by a party.

For the gender disaggregated statistics on the composition of the commissions, see table 1.

Table 1.

Municipal Elections, First Round					
Title	Total	Women		Men	
		Number	%	Number	%
Members of 76 District Election Commissions	1 255	767	62	474	38
DEC members elected for 5 years	380	230	61	150	39
Temporary members of 76 District Election Commissions	219	143	65	76	35
DEC members appointed by political parties	656	409	62	247	38
Municipal Elections, Second Round					
Title	Total	Women		Men	
		Number	%	Number	%
Members of 40 District Election Commissions	680	231	34	449	66
DEC members elected for 5 years	200	126	63	74	37
Temporary members of 40 District Election Commissions	120	79	66	41	34
DEC members appointed by political parties	360	229	64	131	36

Right after the appointment of the elections on August 3, the CEC announced a competition for temporary members of the District Election Commissions in 73 DEC¹⁸ within the timeframes set by law. A total of 377 applications were submitted for the vacant positions. As a result of the examination of the candidates' documentation, 370 candidates participated in the competition for the temporary DEC members, because seven contestants did not submit revised documentation after the defect was identified, within the timeframe set by law.

Three candidates were registered in 12 district election commissions, four - in 20 commissions, five - in 16 commissions, six - in 9 commissions, seven - in 11 commissions, eight - in 4 commissions and eleven - in one commission.

This year, for the first time, the Election Administration organized interviews with contestants in Tbilisi and 10 regions. The CEC members appointed by the parties, as well as selected on professional grounds, interviewed 180 candidates for the vacant positions of temporary DEC members. The interviews were conducted live and were broadcast on the official Facebook page of the CEC from 13 locations.

At the session on August 8, 218 temporary members were elected by 15 CEC members¹⁹ (of these, seven members²⁰ were appointed by the parties and 8 - were selected on professional grounds) in 73 District Election Commissions through the nominal voting. The CEC members appointed by the United National Movement and European Georgia did not take part in the selection process.

It should be noted that the first round of the voting was conducted with a high quorum at the CEC and 98 temporary members were elected in 61 District Election Commissions. As a result of the repeated voting, the quorum was higher than the established minimum²¹ and the Central Election Commission elected 120 temporary members.

18 August 3, 2021 CEC Decree №97/202

19 See the results of the nominal voting of the temporary members of the District Election Commissions at the following links: <https://cesko.ge/res/docs/%E1%83%99%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%AD%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A7%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%93%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98.pdf> and the results of the repeated voting at the link: <https://cesko.ge/res/docs/%E1%83%99%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%AD%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A7%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%93%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%981.pdf>

20 Political parties: Lelo for Georgia, Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia, Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli, European Democrats of Georgia, European Socialists, Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens, and Girchi.

21 According to the election legislation, the contestant must get 12 votes in the first round of nominal voting, and 9 votes - in the repeated voting.

Results of the nominal voting:
At the stage I of the nominal voting:

In 61 District Election Commissions

Three temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 14 votes;

22 temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 13 votes;

73 temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 12 votes;

In total: 98 temporary members of the District Election Commission

As a result of the repeated voting:

Seven temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 12 votes;

78 temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 11 votes;

33 temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 10 votes;

Two temporary members of the District Election Commission were elected by 9 votes;

In total: 120 temporary members of the District Election Commission

No temporary member was elected in №17 District Election Commission of Telavi and a new competition was announced for one vacancy. A temporary member was elected within the timeframe prescribed by the law.

After the appointment of the elections, nine authorized parties appointed 656 temporary members.

On September 10-12, the CEC Chairperson and CEC members held working meetings in the District Election Commissions of Gori, Khashuri, Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Kobuleti and Ozurgeti. The CEC representatives got acquainted with the work of District Election Commissions in the regions of Georgia and the process of preparation for the Municipal Elections. The CEC representatives visited the vote counting centers located in Kutaisi, Batumi and Zugdidi, where the results of the five polling stations identified by random sampling were counted and video recording was performed.

Establishment of Polling Stations

A total of 3,746 polling stations were set up for the Municipal Elections. Of these, 3,664 were established by District Election Commissions. The CEC set up nine special precincts in penitentiary institutions and, due to the pandemic, 73 polling stations were established in exceptional cases to ensure the participation of voters in inpatient facilities and isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) and the exercise of their universal suffrage.

The CEC published the numbers, addresses and other details of the polling stations on the website within the timeframe set by the legislation.

Precinct Election Commissions

There were 63,105 members at 3,664 Precinct Election Commissions established by the DEC's throughout Georgia. Among them, the respective District Election Commissions, with no less than two thirds of the total membership, elected 31,848 members through the nominal voting, while nine authorized parties appointed 31,257 members. For the gender disaggregated statistics on the composition of the commissions, see table 2.

Table 2

Title	Total	Women		Men	
		Number	%	Number	%
PEC members elected by District Election Commissions	31 848	24 597	77	7 251	23
PEC members appointed by political parties	31 257	21 982	70	9 275	30

On August 8, a competition was announced for the Municipal Elections to fill 3,664 Precinct Election Commissions in 73 electoral districts. Total of 31,483 applications were submitted to 29,312 vacancies at 3,664 election precincts. It should be noted, that 903 of them were commission members appointed by the party for the last general elections. According to the legislation, it was forbidden to elect a person as a PEC member if he/she had been appointed by a party as a commission member at any level during the last general elections. Therefore, the mentioned persons did not participate in the selection process. At the same time, 145 members of the District Election Commissions did not participate in the election process at 155 electoral precincts due to the confirmation of close kinship with the contestants.

Among the contestants, 22,148 persons had experience of working in the Election Administration, and 14,234 individuals had participated in the CEC educational projects.

Eight applications were submitted to eight positions at 2,153 (59%) electoral precincts, nine applications - to 891 (24%) polling stations; more than nine - to 539 (15%) electoral precincts, and less than eight - to 81 (2%) polling stations.

The process of electing the PEC members was conducted in accordance with the new requirements and criteria of the election legislation of Georgia. The CEC addressed to the heads of the District Election Commissions to conduct the competition in accordance with the law and with a high degree of transparency, also, within their abilities, to give the authorized stakeholders the opportunity to monitor both the contest documents and the process.

The CEC addressed with additional recommendations to the District Election Commissions and asked them to take into account the following criteria in the process of staffing the commissions:

- Professional and electoral experience;
- Experience of working professionally and impartially for the Election Administration;
- Absence of disciplinary measures imposed several times during the last two years while working for the Election Administration;
- Participation in educational projects of the Election Administration, including: Electoral Development School, Election Administrator's Courses and Youth Election Camps.

Between August 14-17, the process of electing the PEC members was held in the relevant District Election Commissions. It needs to be noted, that 25,730 (88%) out of 29,086 elected PEC members were elected with high quorum, which means that in most cases the contestants (98%) were supported by the DEC members who were selected on the professional grounds as well as appointed by the parties. In particular: two members of the Precinct Election Commissions were elected with 17 votes; five members - with 16 votes; 719 members - with 15 votes; 4,102 members - with 14 votes; 9,391 members - with 13 votes; 11,511 members - with 12 votes; 2,872 members - with 11 votes; 458 members - with 10 votes; and 26 members - with nine votes.

In the process of electing the PEC members, the District Election Commissions took into account the additional recommendations issued by the CEC. Only very few number of the elected PEC members had been imposed with a disciplinary liability during their activity in the Election Administration for the last one year. Among the elected persons, 20,401 (70% of the total number) had the experience of working as a member of the Precinct Election Commission and had participated at least once in the last seven general elections since 2012. At the same time, most of the PEC members elected by the District Election Commissions were the participants of the CEC educational projects, namely: 13,296 of the elected PEC members were graduates of Election Administrator's Courses, 255 members - of Electoral Development School, and 37 members - of Youth Camps.

It should be noted, that all authorized persons had the opportunity to attend the DEC sessions, where the members of the Precinct Election Commissions were elected. Accordingly, 94 local observers, representatives of 44 election subjects and seven media outlets attended the sessions of the District Election Commissions.

It is worth to be noted, that, according to the CEC decision, the salaries of the members of the Precinct Election Commissions established for the voters at penitentiary and inpatient institutions and in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) were increased.

Between August 25-September 2, the first sessions of the Precinct Election Commissions were held. In accordance with the legislation, at the first sessions, the PEC members elected the Chairpersons/Deputy Chairpersons/Secretaries of the Commissions.

Code of Ethics for the Officials of the Election Administration of Georgia

On September 4, members of the Central, District and Precinct Election Commissions signed the Code of Ethics²². The signatories to the document agreed to act in line with election legislation, be fair when carrying out their functions, be impartial and independent, ensure an equal and just electoral environment for election subjects, voters, and other electoral stakeholders.

The CEC Chairperson addressed a written recommendation to all District Election Commissions, which, in turn, called on the members of the Precinct Election Commissions to comply with the above legislative and ethical norms.

22 August 23, 2021 CEC Resolution №49/2021.

V. Capacity Building for Members of the Election Administration

For the Municipal Elections, the Training Centre developed a training concept for election commission members²³. According to the mentioned concept, the instruction of DEC members was conducted, and the training of PEC members was held in six stages.

Between August 11-23, the CEC Training Centre conducted a training of trainers. As a result, 202 trainers of the Election Administration were prepared, who conducted intensive training for PEC members between 25 August-27 September. Taking into account the needs identified after the first round of the elections, training for Precinct Election Commissions were conducted in four stages for the second round.

Instruction of DEC Members

Working meetings were held at the CEC with the officials of the District Election Commissions. The DEC leadership (Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson/Secretary of the Commission) were trained by the heads of the CEC structural units and the Training Centre representatives on the following issues: legislative news, rules on issuing public information, general rules of conduct and professional ethics of the DEC members, election registration procedures and registrations, logistics of district and Precinct Election Commissions, as well as case management and electronic case management program, financial accounting/reporting, legal writing, electronic program of the complaints registry, and election disputes.

Officials of 73 DEC's covered the training program.

On September 1-5, representatives of the Training Centre held informational meetings with the full composition of the District Election Commissions. Participants got acquainted with the following issues: DEC mandate, review of powers and professional ethics; involvement and restrictions in pre-election agitation/campaign; compiling, publishing and verifying voters' lists; coordination/communication with PECs; polling day procedures and the epidemiological protocol; receiving/sorting documents from the Precinct Election Commission after the end of voting; checking/recounting the PEC voting results; summarizing the voting and election results by the District Election Commission. They were also informed about the services offered to facilitate independent participation of PWD voters in voting. In total, 1,093 members of 73 DEC's participated in the informational meetings, including 700 (64%) women and 393 (36%) men.

23 See the concept of training for election commission members at the link: <http://electionreforms.ge/res/docs/20210824173207GEO.pdf>.

Representatives of the CEC and the Training Centre held an information-learning meeting on cyber hygiene issues with the heads of the District Election Commissions to strengthen the general professional skills of the DEC.

Within the framework of the working visit, the CEC Chairperson and the CEC members held an introductory meeting with the leadership of the Supreme Election Commission (SEC) of Autonomous Republic of Adjara. The meeting participants discussed various issues related to the training of PEC members with the involvement of SEC members.

On October 26, the CEC Chairperson and the Head of the Election Process Management Department held a remote meeting with the leadership of those District Election Commissions where the second round of the Municipal Elections would be held. The meeting participants discussed the process of preparation for the elections, including the video recording of the counting procedure and the new design of the voting booth. The meeting attendees also discussed the recommendations and findings of local and international organizations regarding the first round of the Municipal Elections.

Training of PEC Members

From August 25 to September 27, the trainers, prepared by the Training Centre, conducted a six-stage intensive profiled training for PEC members. The training was conducted using a combined methodology, which involved episodic staging performed by the participants to enhance practical skills. The purpose of the training of PEC members was to increase the efficiency of the PEC, to provide a safe election environment amid the pandemic, to improve the relevant services for the electoral stakeholders and the voters, including the facilitation of electoral participation of PWDs.

Training, I stage (August 25-September 2) - Within the framework of the profile training program, the full composition of the PECs got acquainted with the following issues: key principles of holding democratic elections and the role of PEC members to ensure them, mandate within the ethical and legal framework; working regime of a Precinct Election Commissions and its powers defined under the regulation; the grounds for imposing a disciplinary liability; coordination/communication of activities of PECs with DEC (including with regard to organizational-logistical issues: transfer of election documents and inventory to the Precinct Election Commission; arrangement of a polling station); activities of PECs during the period up to the voting day, including, a legislative novelty - writing voters in a special list of adapted election precincts; measures to be taken to ensure compliance with the sanitary-hygienic requirements at the PEC building in order to prevent the spread of New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) infection (COVID-19).

The number of members from 3,664 PECs to attend the first stage of the training was 56,841, the number of attendees – 38,481 (68%), including 29,481 (77%) women and 9,000 (23%) men.

Training, II stage (September 4-6) – PEC members (except for the leadership of the election commissions) elected by the District Election Commissions received information on the issues within their competence: to perform the functions assigned to the members of the Precinct Election Commission through casting of votes on the polling day, to provide services for the voters in compliance with the epidemiological protocol during the voting process (the focus was made on the function of the voters' registrar), review of other functions assigned to the members of the Precinct Election Commission through casting the lots on the voting day (the person regulating the voters' flow, ballot box supervisor, the member responsible for transporting the mobile ballot box), vote counting process (including the grounds for cancellation of ballot papers, the rule on video shooting of the vote counting process, obligations of PEC members regarding the summary protocol on the voting results of the Precinct Election Commission).

The training was based on practical studies, episodic staging of the voting process was conducted and other thematic exercises were performed.

The number of members from 3,633 PECs²⁴ to attend the II stage of the training was 19,476, the number of attendees – 12,802 (66%), including 10,368 (81%) women and 2,434 (19%) men.

Training, III stage (September 7-10) – The party-appointed PEC members received information on the following issues: to perform the functions assigned to the members of the Precinct Election Commission through the casting of votes on the polling day, to provide services for the voters in compliance with the epidemiological protocol during the voting process (taking into account the target group of the training, in accordance with the legislative innovations, the focus was made on the function of the person regulating the voters' flow, ballot box supervisor, and the member responsible for transporting the mobile ballot box), review of other functions assigned to the members of the Precinct Election Commission on the voting day (commission member - registrar), vote counting process, including the grounds for cancellation of ballot papers, the rule on video shooting the vote counting process, obligations of PEC members regarding the summary protocol on the voting results of the Precinct Election Commission.

The training was based on practical studies, episodic staging of the voting process was conducted and other thematic exercises were performed.

24 The statistics on the II-VI stage of the training do not include the statistics on the attendance of the members of the precinct election commissions in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District. This data is reflected separately in the report.

The number of members from 3,633 PECs to attend the III stage of the training was 30,700, the number of attendees – 14,451 (47%) including 10,889 (75%) women and 3,562 (25%) men.

Training, IV stage (September 12-15) – Officials of Precinct Election Commissions (Chairpersons/Deputy Chairpersons/Secretaries of the Commissions) received information on the following issues: communication-coordination with DEC (including on election security issues); electoral documents/inventory to be accepted for the Election Day; arranging a voting room; compliance with sanitary-hygienic requirements; organizational/supervisory functions of the PEC officials (opening the polling station, the voting process, closing the polling station and counting and summarizing the votes); the rule on voting by voters; protection of voters' personal data; regulations for photo-video shooting at the polling station, including the rule on video recording of the vote counting process; technique of drawing up summary protocols on the PEC voting results; and technique of compiling a mobile ballot box list.

The training was based on practical study, episodic staging of the voting process was conducted and other thematic exercises were performed.

The number of officials from 3,633 PECs to attend the IV stage of the training was 10,883, the number of attendees – 9,495 (87%), including 7,331 (77%) women and 2,164 (23%) men.

Training, V stage (September 17-24) – The members of the election commissions (full composition) practically carried out the episodic staging of the voting day, namely: performance of the functions by PEC members to provide services for the voters in compliance with the epidemiological protocol during the voting process; simulation of data counting by the commission members registering the voters; procedure to be carried out before the opening of the ballot boxes – simulation of counting the signatures of the voters participating in the elections and sealing of the voters' lists by the counters; procedure for sorting/counting/sealing ballot papers. The training participants got acquainted with the regulations related to the independent participation of PWD voters in the polling process.

The number of members from 3,633 PECs to attend the V stage of the training was 61,690, the number of attendees was 38,184 (62%), including 29,972 (78%) women and 8,212 (22%) men.

Training, VI stage (September 26-27) – Officials of Precinct Election Commissions (Chairpersons/Deputy Chairpersons/Secretaries of the Commissions) received information on the following issues: technique of drawing up summary protocols on the PEC voting results; applications/complaints related to the E-day; regulations of photo-video shooting at the polling station. The training was based on practical training and thematic exercises were performed.

The number of officials from 3,633 PECs to attend the VI stage of the training was 10,891, the number of attendees was 9,166 (84%), including 7,121 (78%) women and 2,045 (22%) men.

Two international and 18 local observer organizations monitored the ongoing training process across the country.

Due to the low attendance rate identified in some cases, the CEC made a public address during the training which highlighted the importance of attending in order to enhance the qualification of the PEC members.

Training for the Members of Precinct Election Commissions in N4 Krtsanisi Electoral District

Between September 14-27, the full composition of 31 Precinct Election Commissions in № 4 Krtsanisi Electoral District underwent special training. Based on the practical training, with regard to the procedural innovations provided for the pilot project, the commission members got acquainted with the following issues: the technique of drawing up summary protocols on the PEC voting results; the rule on submitting applications/complaints during the E-day; the rules on operation of the special vote counting machine and the activities to be carried out on the polling day. Representatives of the company “Smartmatic” took part in the training process.

The PEC members received instruction manuals developed by the Training Centre for the pilot project.

Total of 93 officials from 31 PECs had to attend the training held on September 14-16. Of these, 88 (95%) officials attended the training, including 73 (83%) women and 15 (17%) men.

Overall, 523 members from 31 PECs had to attend the training held on September 17-25. Of these, 410 (78%) officials attended the training, including 357 (87%) women and 53 (13%) men.

In total, 93 members of 31 PECs planned to attend the training between September 26-27, out of which 90 (97%) officials attended, including 74 (83%) women and 16 (17%) men.

Information-learning Course for the Members of the PEC/Special Group Created in Penitentiary Institutions

On September 18, the seven trainers of the Training Centre conducted an information-learning course for the full composition of the Precinct Election Commission/special group set up in the penitentiary institutions.

The course participants got acquainted with the following issues: creation of a polling station in a penitentiary institution and term of office; the rule on mandatory quarantine to be undergone by the members of the Precinct Election Commissions/special group established in the penitentiary institution, and by observers/election subjects/representatives of media outlets; measures to be taken on the polling day to prevent the spread of New Coronavirus; opening a polling station and legal status of the persons authorized to be present at the polling station; procedures to be carried out before the start of voting; polling process according to the epidemiological protocol; security of the voting process; registration of the number of voters participating in the voting; closing a polling station; procedures to be performed before counting the votes; opening the ballot boxes and the process of counting ballots; the technique of drawing up summary protocols on the PEC voting results; applications/complaints related to the E-day.

The course was based on practical training, thematic exercises were performed.

Overall, 90 members of nine Precinct Election Commissions/special groups had to attend the training. Of these, 82 (91%) members attended the course, including 48 (58%) women and 34 (42%) men.

Pilot E-learning Program “Technique of Drawing up a Summary Protocol on Voting Results” for the Officials of Precinct Election Commissions

In cooperation between the CEC, the Training Centre and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), an e-learning program “Technique of Drawing up a Summary Protocol on Voting Results” was developed. The program was implemented in the pilot mode and aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of PEC Chairpersons and Secretaries on the technique of drawing up a summary protocol on voting results.

On September 24, a remote information meeting was held with the Chairpersons of 73 DEC's about the importance of the pilot training resource.

On September 27-30, after the completion of the face-to-face training for the PECs, the PEC officials verified their knowledge on drawing up a summary protocol through an electronic program. In order to run the program in the pilot mode, PEC officials were provided with an access to computer equipment in the election district buildings and other relevant space.

Information-learning Course for the Members of Special Groups Established for the Voters Residing in Stationary-Medical Facilities and Isolation (Quarantine, Self-Isolation)

On September 27, 73 trainers of the Training Centre conducted an information-learning course for the full composition of special groups created for the voters residing in stationary-medical facilities and isolation (quarantine, self-isolation).

The participants received information on the following issues: the first session of the special group and the procedure of casting the lots to identify two members carrying a mobile ballot box; preventive measures against the spread of New Coronavirus; opening the station – persons authorised to be present in the special group’s temporary residence and their rights; polling procedure while using a mobile ballot box; procedures to be performed prior to opening ballot boxes; opening a mobile ballot box; sorting/counting/sealing the ballots; drawing up a summary protocol; submitting/reacting to the polling day applications/complaints.

The training was conducted by practical teaching method, thematic exercises were performed.

Overall, 1,007 members of 73 special groups had to attend the training, out of which 819 (81%) members attended, including 524 (64%) women and 295 (36%) men.

Training of PEC Members for the Second Round of the Municipal Elections

According to the concept developed by the Training Centre for the second round of the Elections, stages I, II and III of the training were devoted to the PEC leadership (Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary), while the stage IV was dedicated to the PEC members (except for the officials). As part of the training program, Precinct Election Commission officials underwent an intensive program on the technique of drawing up a summary protocol on voting results. In addition, special attention was paid to the substantive discussion of other functions to be performed by PEC members on the Election Day and the practice of performing them, in the format of relevant episodic staging and other exercises. The training was carried out by 144 trainers prepared by the Training Centre.

In total, 5,377 officials of 1,830 PECs planned to attend the first stage of the training, of these, 3,726 (69%) persons attended, including 3,085 (83%) women and 641 (17%) men.

Overall, 5,375 officials of 1,830 PECs planned to attend the second stage of the training, of these, 3,262 (61%) persons attended, including 2,733 (84%) women and 529 (16%) men.

In total, 5,396 officials of 1,830 PECs planned to attend the third stage of the training, of these, 3,190 (59%) persons attended, including 2,689 (84%) women and 501 (16%) men.

Overall, 25,262 members of 1,830 PECs planned to attend the IV stage of the training, of these, 11,111 (44%) members attended, including 9,277 (84%) women and 1,834 (16%) men.

Information-learning Course for the Members of the PEC/Special Group Created in Penitentiary Institutions for the Second Round of the Municipal Elections

On October 20, six trainers of the Training Centre conducted an information-learning course for the full composition of the special groups established at eight polling stations to ensure the participation of the voters in penitentiary institutions at the Special Penitentiary Service for the second round. The course participants got acquainted with the following issues: the rule on mandatory quarantine to be undergone by the special group members of the electoral precinct established in the penitentiary institution, by observers, election subjects, representatives of media outlets and permission to the polling station; opening a polling station and procedures to be carried out before the start of voting; polling process according to the epidemiological protocol; closing a polling station and procedures to be performed before counting the votes; opening the ballot boxes and the process of counting ballots; the technique of drawing up summary protocols on the PEC voting results.

Overall, 82 members of the eight special groups had to attend the training. Of these, 43 (52%) members attended the course, including 28 (65%) women and 15 (35%) men.

Information-learning Course for the Members of Special Groups Established for the Voters Residing in Stationary-Medical Facilities and Isolation (Quarantine, Self-Isolation) for the Second Round of the Municipal Elections

On October 24 and 28, 29 trainers of the Training Centre conducted a training for the full composition of special groups created to ensure participation of the voters residing in stationary-medical facilities and isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) during the second round of the Municipal Elections. The participants received information on the following major issues within their competence: opening the station – persons authorised to be present in the special group's temporary residence and their rights; polling procedure while using a mobile ballot box; procedures to be performed prior to opening ballot boxes; opening a mobile ballot box; sorting/counting/sealing the ballots; drawing up a summary protocol.

Overall, 411 members of 29 special groups had to attend the training, of these, 281 (68%) members attended, including 173 (62%) women and 108 (38%) men.

In cooperation between the CEC, the Training Centre and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), an e-learning program "Technique of Drawing up a Summary Protocol on Voting Results" was also implemented in a pilot mode for the second round of the Elections.

Information/Training Materials

The Training Centre developed training and information materials for the members of election commissions and stakeholders.

In cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Guidelines for PEC Members was translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani.

In order to inform the representatives of the international observer organizations, the Training Centre provided the translation of the guidelines for the Municipal Elections into English. See the list of the training and information materials in the table 3.

Table 3.

№	Information/Training Materials	Language
1	Guidelines for the Members of the District Election Commissions	Georgian, English
2	Guidelines for PEC Members	Georgian, English, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
3	Guideline for PEC Members “For the Implementation of Some Election Procedures by Electronic Means in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District for the October 2, 2021 Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Self-Governing City/Self-Governing Community”	Georgian
4	Voting Day Procedures	Georgian, English
5	Memorable Instruction for PEC Chairperson	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
6	Powers of the Precinct Election Commission Secretary on the Election Day - Memorable Instruction	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
7	Functions of a Commission Member Regulating the Voters’ Flow - Memorable Instruction	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
8	Functions of the Commission Member Registering the Voters - Memorable Instruction	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
9	Functions of the Commission Member Supervising the Ballot Box and Special Envelopes - Memorable Instruction	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
10	Functions of the Commission Member Responsible for Transporting the Mobile Ballot Box - Memorable Instruction	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
11	Learning Instruction of PEC Members on Election Security	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
12	Poster for voters reflecting the voting procedure at the polling station and the epidemiological protocol	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
13	Poster on the sanitary-hygienic requirements for entering/leaving and being present/moving in a polling building to be observed by the stakeholders to prevent the spread of infection caused by the New Coronavirus	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
14	Poster about photo-video shooting regulations at polling stations	Georgian
15	Poster about sealing of electoral documentation by the Precinct Election Commission	Georgian, Georgian/Azerbaijani, Georgian/Armenian
16	Poster reflecting the voting procedure to be carried out and the epidemiological protocol observed by voters as part of the pilot project in №4 Krtsanisi Election District	Georgian

Remote Information-training Course “Voting Day Procedures”

In order to raise awareness about the election procedures for the Municipal Elections, a remote information-training course “Voting Day Procedures” was posted on the e-learning platform available on the websites of the CEC and the Training Centre. The course users could get information on the following issues: opening of the polling station and procedures to be carried out before the start of voting; voting process; protection of personal data of voters during the voting process; legal status of the persons authorized to be present at the polling station; closing election precincts, the vote counting process and the rule on video recording of this process; summarizing the voting results in the Precinct Election Commission; voting day applications/complaints; regulations for photo-video shooting in the polling station; regulations related to holding elections in a safe environment during the pandemic. The test assignments integrated in the program provided the user with an additional resource to test their knowledge.

In total, 2,157 persons participated in the integrated testing of the program, including 737 (34%) women and 1,420 (66%) men. Overall, 1,466 individuals passed the test, including 484 (73%) women and 982 (67%) men.

VI. Election Registrations

Registration/Deregistration of Electoral Subjects

In total, 52 parties and three initiative groups of voters applied to the CEC Chairperson to participate in the Municipal Elections. Of these, 43 election subjects were registered at the CEC, and registration for nine parties and three initiative groups of voters was rejected/canceled (based on a personal statement and non-correction of detected deficiency). See the information in Annex 2.

Also, 103 initiative groups of voters applied to the District Election Commissions. Of these, registration for 35 initiative groups of voters was rejected/canceled.

A total of 111 election subjects participated in the Municipal Elections, including 43 parties and 68 initiative groups of voters.

Registration of Party Lists

For the Municipal Elections, 32 election subjects submitted party lists to the CEC Chairperson. One election subject was denied registration of a party list due to non-correction of the detected deficiency. Thus, the lists of 31 electoral subjects were registered. In total, 739 party lists submitted by 33 election subjects were registered in the relevant District Election Commissions.

Pursuant to the Article 203, Paragraph 8 of the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, in the party lists presented to the CEC Chairperson for the General Municipal Elections, at least one candidate in every three was of the opposite gender.

Registration of Mayoral Candidates of Self-governing City/Self-governing Community and Candidates for Membership of Sakrebulo

Nineteen candidates were nominated for the Mayor of Tbilisi - the capital of Georgia. Of these, three mayoral candidates were denied registration due to non-correction of the deficiency detected. Thus, 16 mayoral candidates were finally registered²⁵.

In addition, 24 people were registered as candidates for mayor of four self-governing cities, and 199 individuals were registered as mayoral candidates of 59 self-governing communities²⁶.

25 Candidates nominated for the Mayor of Tbilisi - the capital of Georgia: <https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/20210916213532.%E1%83%97%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98%E1%83%9B%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%9D%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%99%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%93%E1%83%98%E1%83%93%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98.pdf>

26 Mayoral candidates for self-governing cities: <https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%A5%E1%83%90%E1%83%9A%E1%83%90%E1%83%A5%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98.pdf>

In total, 1,728 individuals were registered under the proportional electoral system²⁹ as candidates for membership in the Sakrebulo – the self-governing body of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and 138 persons were registered on the basis of the majoritarian electoral system²⁸.

In addition, 18,895 candidates were registered for membership at 63 Sakrebulo of self-governing communities and self-governing cities (except for Tbilisi) under the proportional electoral system²⁹, and 2,633 candidates were registered under the majoritarian electoral system.

In the second round of the Elections, 84 candidates (with the best results) nominated by 10 election subjects participated in 42 majoritarian electoral districts.

Proxies of Electoral Subjects

Total of 21,515 proxies of 111 election subjects were registered in the Election Administration for the first round of the elections. Of these, 54 representatives of 43 election subjects were registered based on the decrees of the CEC Chairperson. Also, based on the decrees of the CEC Secretary, 634 representatives were registered in the District Election Commissions, including 31 proxies of three election subjects – at special COVID polling stations³⁰. Based on the Decree of the Secretary of the corresponding District Election Commission, 20,827 proxies were appointed by 68 election subjects in the Precinct Election Commissions.

A total of 5,309 representatives of ten electoral subjects were registered in the second round of the Elections. Of these, 14 representatives were registered at the CEC and 113 – at the District Election Commissions, including 26 proxies – at special COVID polling stations. Total of 5,182 representatives were registered at the Precinct Election Commissions.

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- 27 Registered party lists (Tbilisi): <https://cesko.ge/ge/archevnebi/2021/munitsipalitetis-organota-2021-tslis-archevnebi/saarchevno-subieqtebi/singleview/9125089-registrirbuli-partiuli-siebi>
Candidates for Sakrebulo removed from the party lists (Tbilisi): <https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98%E1%83%98%E1%83%93%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%9B%E1%83%9D%E1%83%AE%E1%83%A1%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%99%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%93%E1%83%98%E1%83%93%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98.pdf>
- 28 Registered Majoritarian Candidates (as of September 20): <https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/20210930134131.pdf>
Majoritarian candidates removed from registration: <https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%9B%E1%83%9D%E1%83%AE%E1%83%A1%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98.pdf>
- 29 Registered party lists (regions): https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A5%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98_03.09.pdf
- 30 Representatives appointed by election subjects in the CEC and districts (as of October 2): https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A3%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%94%E1%83%A5%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%AC%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%9B%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9B%E1%83%90%E1%83%93%E1%83%92%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98_I%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98.pdf

Registration for the Observers of International and Domestic Observer Organizations and Accreditation of Representatives of Press and other Sources of Mass Media

With the purpose to observe the election process, 91 local observers applied to the CEC. Of these, registration of three local observer organizations was denied/canceled for various reasons.

Accordingly, 31,163 observers from 88 organizations were registered at all levels of the election commissions, including one observer from one local organization at the special COVID polling station. However, 148 observers from 12 local observer organizations were registered at the District Election Commissions.

The CEC registered 1,024 observers from 52 international observer organizations, including 36 representatives of the election administrations from 16 countries, 184 observers from the embassies of 14 countries, and 804 representatives of 22 international organizations.

Total of 2,751 representatives of 89 press and mass media sources were accredited by the CEC, including three representatives of two media organizations registered at the special COVID polling stations. However, 212 representatives of 30 media organizations were accredited in the relevant District Election Commissions³¹.

For the second round of the Elections, 35,053 observers from 88 local organizations, and 1,102 observers from 52 international observer organizations were registered at the CEC, and 3,552 representatives from 89 media organizations were accredited, including four representatives at the special COVID polling stations. However, 145 observers from 12 local observer organizations were registered and 159 representatives from 30 media organizations were accredited at the relevant District Election Commissions.

Online Registration Program

For the Municipal Elections, 34 out of 43 registered election subjects used the online registration program and appointed 20,735 representatives to the CEC and DEC (43 individuals were registered in the CEC and 20,692 - in the districts).

Out of 100 local observer organizations registered at the CEC and relevant District Election Commissions, 85 (82 - at the CEC and three - at the District Election Commissions) used the online registration program. Through this program, 31,002 observers were registered at all levels of election commissions (30,966 - at the CEC and 36 - at the relevant District Election Commissions).

Four out of 52 international observer organizations registered at the CEC used the electronic registration program, and 605 observers were registered through the program.

31 See the detailed information at the link:
<https://cesko.ge/ge/archevnebi/2021/munitsipalitetis-organota-2021-tslis-archevnebi/damkvirveblebi-da-media>

Out of 119 sources of press and media accredited by the CEC and relevant District Election Commissions, representatives of 20 media organizations (19 - at the CEC and one - at the relevant District Election Commissions) used the electronic registration program. Consequently, 1,619 representatives were accredited at all levels of the election commissions.

The CEC processed information on election subjects, their candidates, observers and media representatives by gender, and it is available on the gender portal of the CEC website³².

Assignment of Sequence Numbers to Electoral Subjects

As a result of the amendments to the election legislation, the rule on assigning sequence numbers to election subjects was changed. According to the election law, the political unions with the best funding according to the results of the previous Parliamentary Elections had the right to choose the sequence number in the first place. However, those political unions that had secured 0.75 percent or more of the votes during the elections had the opportunity to apply to the Election Administration and request to participate with the sequence number they had used in the last general election, unless this number had already been selected by the political union with the best results.

In order to maximize the support of political parties in the run-up to the elections, on July 9, at the initiative of the CEC, an information meeting was held with the representatives of the political unions that were eligible to choose a sequence number according to the election legislation³³. The officials of the Election Administration informed the representatives of the political unions participating in the meeting about the legal right to assign the sequence numbers. It should be noted that the Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia, the United National Movement and the Girchi had already addressed a request to the CEC and kept the numbers assigned to them in the previous Parliamentary Elections.

At the CEC session held on August 8, the procedures of casting lots were performed and the sequence numbers were assigned to the electoral subjects for the Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality³⁴.

In order to participate in the Municipal Elections, the representatives of 11 electoral subjects³⁵ (from the parties registered for that period) chose the sequence numbers during the distribution process according to the law. Three election subjects³⁶ retained their sequence numbers without the procedure of casting the lots, as prescribed by the legislation³³.

It should be noted, that the distribution process of the sequence numbers was broadcast live and all interested parties had the opportunity to observe the procedure.

Besides, within the timeframes established by the legislation, the procedures of casting lots were conducted in the District Election Commissions and sequence numbers were determined for the initiative groups of voters.

32 See the Gender Portal at the link: <https://genderstatistics.cec.gov.ge/>

33 The ordinal numbers of the election subjects were determined under the Article 38¹ of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia".

34 October 8, 2021 CEC Decree №138/2021

35 "Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli" - №1; European Georgia - "Movement for Liberty" - №2; Movement "State for People" - №4; European Democrats of Georgia - №6; Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens - №7; "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia" - №8; "Lelo for Georgia" - №9; Labor Party of Georgia - №10; Republican Party of Georgia - №11; "Law and Justice" - №12; "Progress and Freedom" - №21.

36 P/U "Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia", P/U "United National Movement" and P/U "Girchi" retained the numbers assigned to them in the previous parliamentary elections.

VII. Unified List of Voters

According to the paragraph 5, Article 31 of the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, the CEC processed the data provided by: Public Services Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Defense of Georgia, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Special Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, State Security Service of Georgia, Intelligence Service of Georgia, Special State Protection Service of Georgia, Social Services Agency and other relevant agencies.

On September 15, a meeting was held between the CEC and the officials of the LEPL Public Services Development Agency (PSDA). The Public Services Development Agency presented a database of potential voters to the CEC based on an electronic database. The list submitted to the CEC by the Agency included 3,540,609 potential voters.

In order to participate in the Municipal Elections, deregistered voters and voters with expired registration were included in the voters' list based on the address of their last registration or an actual place of residence. The voters registered without an indication of an address were included in the list based on their actual place of residence as registered in the electronic database of the Public Services Development Agency (PSDA).

For the first round of the Municipal Elections, the number of registered voters in the Unified List of Voters amounted 3,497,345, including 1,874,119 (54%) women and 1,623,226 (46%) men. The number of voters in Tbilisi was 1,002,900, including 570,477 (57%) women and 432,423 (43%) men. Total of 41,314 voters were registered in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, where a pilot project was implemented. The number of voters who had reached the voting age by the polling day was 39,135, including 18,429 (47%) women and 20,706 (53%) men.

On October 22, an updated database of potential voters was handed over to the CEC by the the Public Services Development Agency (PSDA) for the second round of the Elections. The CEC processed the mentioned data ahead of time and published the updated Unified List of Voters on the CEC official website.

For the second round of the Municipal Elections, the number of voters in the Unified List of Voters amounted 2,088,722, including 1,148,355 (55%) women and 940,367 (45%) men. The number of voters in Tbilisi was 1,002,525, including 570,253 (57%) women and 432,272 (43%) men. The number of voters who had reached the voting age by the polling day was 2,069, including 990 (48%) women and 1,079 (52%) men.

For the first round of the elections, the CEC elaborated³⁷ special lists of voters, according to which the number of voters in self-isolation was 1,227, and the number of individuals (including medical staff) in inpatient facilities and quarantine areas amounted to 147. As for the members of the special groups that served the voters in isolation, the representatives of the election subjects, observer organizations and the media, who observed the process and also had the opportunity to participate in the

37 See the detailed information at the link:
<https://cesko.ge/ge/archevnebi/2021/munitsipalitets-organota-2021-tslis-archevnebi/damkvirveblebi-da-media>

voting, their number was 907, including: 880 commission members, three representatives of media outlets, one observer and 23 proxies of election subjects.

For the second round of the elections, the CEC elaborated³⁸ special lists of voters, according to which the number of voters in self-isolation was 2,165, and the number of individuals (including medical staff) in inpatient facilities and quarantine areas amounted to 217. As for the members of the special groups that served the voters in isolation, the representatives of the election subjects, observer organizations and the media, who observed the process and also had the opportunity to participate in the voting, their number was 395, including: 369 commission members, four representatives of media outlets, and 22 proxies of electoral subjects.

Publicly available version of the updated voters' lists was accessible to parties with electoral registration, initiative groups, observer organizations determined under the election legislation and voters. The list was requested and received by 25 political parties, 10 observer organizations (including three international and seven local organizations), and five initiative groups of voters.

Through the services offered by the CEC, voters checked their and their families' data in the Unified List of Voters as well as location of polling stations on 5,196,304 occasions.

38 October 27, 2021 CEC Decree №367/2021

VIII. Electoral and Citizen Educational Programs

The Election Administration and the Training Centre are implementing various information-learning projects to raise awareness on election issues among different age groups and stakeholders. In 2021, five educational projects were implemented with the participation of 15,503 people. The implementation of the training programs increased the number of people with election knowledge who had the opportunity to participate in various projects implemented by the Election Administration and electoral stakeholders.

The training courses were conducted by specially trained members of the District Election Commissions and trainers of the Election Administration. For the statistical data on the participants of the educational projects, see the table 4.

Table 4.

Project Title	Number of Graduate	Women		Men		Area of Implementation
		Number	%	Number	%	
Election Administrator's Courses for Potential Members of the Precinct Election Commissions	10 707	8 718	82	1 989	18	64 Municipalities
"Elections and Young Voters"	4 130	2 498	60	1 632	40	64 Municipalities 244 Public Schools
Electoral Law	357	210	59	147	41	6 Universities
Youth Camps	168	96	58	72	42	
Electoral Development School	20	14	70	6	30	Carried out Online
	121	78	65	43	35	Tbilisi and 18 Municipalities

Training Project "Election Administrator's Courses for Potential Members of Precinct Election Commissions"

Between May 31-June 12, the training project "Election Administrator's Courses for Potential Members of Precinct Election Commissions" was implemented by the members of District Election Commissions and 148 trainers of the Election Administration.

Within the framework of the profile training program, focused on raising the civil election awareness and identifying/developing the qualified potential human resources of the Election Administration, the participants familiarized themselves with the voting day procedures and the issues within the competence of the Precinct Election Commission (PEC).

In total, 11,889 participants took part in the training project, of these, 10,707 citizens successfully passed the training course and received certificates, including 8,718 (82%) women and 1,989 (18%) men.

It should be noted that the project was implemented in 64 municipalities, including 13 municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities: Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi, Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda. The project involved 1,665 participants, including 1,118 (67%) women and 547 (33%) men.

Information-Educational Program “Elections and Young Voters”

Between March 15-April 12, the CEC and the Training Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, implemented an information-educational program “Elections and Young Voters” in public schools. The program aimed at raising electoral awareness of the youth and promoting civic responsibility.

The project was implemented in two forms at 244 public schools located in 64 municipalities:

- In 204 public schools, the teaching process was conducted in classrooms, the course was conducted in the form of face-to-face training (102 trainers provided the course in schools);
- In 40 public schools, the learning process was conducted remotely, students underwent online training (the course was provided by four staff members of the Training Centre).

Mock elections were held in the format of practical training in public schools, as a result of which the school students chose slogans popularized by the CEC at different times. The winner was the slogan “Your Choice is the Law”. Within the program, debates were organized with the participation of young people to develop a culture of debate.

Total of 4,130 young people participated in the project “Elections and Young Voters”, including 2,498 (60%) women and 1,632 (40%) men.

It should be noted that the educational program was implemented in the following 13 municipalities densely populated with ethnic minorities: Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi, Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda. Overall, 473 students of XI-XII grades from ethnic minorities participated in the program.

Semester Training Program “Electoral Law” at Partner Universities

In the spring and fall semesters, the CEC and the Training Centre implemented an author’s program on electoral law at partner universities³⁹ as part of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded with the higher educational institutions.

Under the training program, the Bachelor’s Degree students of the Faculty of Law, Social Sciences and Journalism were introduced to election-related regulations and international electoral practice. The training program was implemented online as well as in the format of classroom studies. The program was covered by 631 students.

39 Semester studies were conducted at the following universities: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, Grigol Robakidze University, Caucasus International University, Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Gori State Teaching University, Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University.

Project “Electoral Development School”

In 2021, the CEC and the Training Centre implemented the project “Electoral Development School”. The training course was conducted by the members of the District Election Commissions and staff of the CEC. The training course was attended by young people aged 18-25.

The participants received information on the following issues: electoral systems, the Electoral Administration, the 1919 Elections of the Constituent Assembly, principles of democratic elections, electoral bodies in Georgia, electoral stakeholders, election transparency and accessibility, gender equality, electronic means of voting and vote counting, elections and surveys, misinformation and spreading fake news during the election period.

The first stage of the project (February 24-28) was carried out remotely. Twenty participants covered the training course and received certificates, including 14 (70%) women and 6 (30%) men.

The second stage of the project (July 22-30) was implemented in Tbilisi and 18 municipalities. On the last day of the training, the young people conducted a mock voting process with the help of the trainers. The course was successfully completed by 121 participants (including 78 (65%) women and 43 (35%) men) who received certificates.

It should be noted that the training course was conducted in two municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities: Marneuli and Gardabani. Eighteen young people participated in the training course, including 12 (67%) women and 6 (34%) men.

IX. Promoting Inclusive Electoral Environment

Ethnic Minorities

For the Municipal Elections, 348 polling stations were established in 12 majoritarian districts densely populated with ethnic minorities, including:

- Georgian/Azerbaijani - 211;
- Georgian/Armenian - 133;
- Georgian/Armenian/Azerbaijani - four.

The ballot paper prepared by the CEC, the rules on filling in the ballot and the Unified List of Voters were translated into Azerbaijani and Armenian. Also, 10 types of informational materials were translated, including posters, information flyers, the CEC Chairperson's address to young voters who participated in the elections for the first time, flyer aiming at safe participation in voting and other important legal acts. Ten types of guidelines were translated for ethnic minority members of Precinct Election Commissions.

All information clips produced by the CEC, including videos on the services offered to ethnic minorities, were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani and posted on the CEC website, social network and were broadcast by central, as well as regional television and radio⁴⁰. In addition, the newspapers "Vrastani" (Armenian) and "Gurjistani" (Azerbaijani) published information on voting procedures.

As part of the information campaign "Talk to Voters", four information flyers were distributed in the languages of ethnic minorities. The flyers included information on the suffrage of the voters, secrecy of the ballot, voter registration, communication channels available between the Election Administration and citizens and the services offered, as well as information on voter list verification, voting procedures, and the CEC Chairperson's address to young voters who participated in the elections for the first time.

Ethnic minority voters could receive election-related information in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages at the CEC Contact Hub.

Voters living in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities had the opportunity to check their data in the Unified List of Voters in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages at the CEC website.

Various electoral information is posted in Armenian and Azerbaijani in the banner "Ethnic Minorities" on the CEC website.

40 The materials were broadcast in Armenian language on "Parvana-TV" and "ATV-12", as well as in Radio "Nor" and "Vrastan-FM", and in Azerbaijani language - on "Marneuli-TV", "Kvemo Kartli", "Bolnisi TV", "AG-TV", "TV-4", as well as in radio "Marneuli", "Bolnisi", "AG-FM".

Meeting of Working Group on Ethnic Minority Issues

On September 15, with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), a meeting of the CEC Standing Working Group on Ethnic Minority Issues was held.

The CEC Chairperson informed the participants about the activities carried out and planned by the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections. At the meeting, the members of the Group received information on the following issues: polling stations created in the electoral districts densely populated by ethnic minorities, voters registered in the Unified List of Voters, training system for the PECs, services available to voters and information campaign.

The members of the Working Group positively assessed the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the promotion of an inclusive election environment. The meeting was attended by 16 members of the Working Group.

Meetings with Young Representatives of Ethnic Minorities

On September 24, in Marneuli, in cooperation with the NGO Civic Integration Foundation, the CEC leadership met 15 young people from ethnic minorities living in Marneuli.

On September 27, in Akhalkalaki, in cooperation with the public movement “Multinational Georgia”, a meeting of the CEC leadership was held with 30 young people from ethnic minorities living in Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda.

The CEC Chairperson spoke about the activities carried out to promote the involvement of ethnic minorities in the electoral processes, including educational programs and voter awareness projects implemented by the Election Administration in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. A discussion was held and the questions of the young people were answered by the officials and Chairperson of the CEC.

Voters with Disabilities

Out of 3,664 polling stations established in 73 electoral districts across Georgia, 1,123 polling stations were available for wheelchair user voters, including 254 simple adaptations and 869 ramps. Out of 1,867 electoral precincts established for the second round of the elections, 648 electoral precincts were available for wheelchair user voters, including 114 simple adaptations and 534 ramps.

The amendment to the Election Code established a temporary rule⁴¹ for the participation of wheelchair user voters in the Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality, namely: wheelchair user voters could vote in any adapted polling station in the territory of the relevant local majoritarian electoral district. In the first round of the elections, 12 wheelchair user voters requested the change of the polling station, while the number of such voters was nine during the second round.

41 Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, Article 200¹.

The CEC offered a tactile ballot guide to blind voters to participate independently in voting. For the Municipal Elections, the special inscriptions “Majoritarian/Mayor” and “Proportional” were added to the tactile ballot guide. This helped PEC members to provide services to blind voters. Special ballot papers and frame/envelope forms were created for blind voters to participate in the pilot project in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

In order to inform the deaf and hearing impaired voters, the videos prepared by the CEC and information briefings at the CEC were provided with the sign language. After registering on the CEC website, the deaf and hearing impaired voters could receive information through a video call by a sign language operator.

The websites of the CEC and the Training Centre were fully accessible to the blind and visually impaired voters.

Twenty-two persons with disabilities were employed in the Election Administration, of these, 20 were employed in district and Precinct Election Commissions, and two - at the CEC Contact Hub.

In cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), an online learning course “Promote Independent Electoral Participation for PWD Voters” was renewed for the interested parties. Overall, 1,366 persons were registered in the program, including 518 (38%) women and 848 (62%) men. Of these, 1,133 individuals passed the test successfully, including 414 (37%) women and 719 (73%) men.

Meeting of Working Group on Persons with Disabilities

On August 18, a remote meeting of the Working Group on Persons with Disabilities was held. The CEC Chairperson informed the meeting participants about the measures taken by the Election Administration to promote an equal electoral environment. The members of the Working Group were informed about the services provided for the blind and visually impaired voters, deaf and hearing impaired voters and recipients of support at the polling stations on the E-day. The meeting was attended by 10 members of the Working Group.

Meeting at the Union of the Blind of Georgia

On September 21, a meeting was held at the Union of the Blind of Georgia, where the CEC representatives presented the pilot project planned for №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District on the Election Day. At the meeting, the CEC Chairperson presented a new type of ballot paper and frame/envelope form to the blind voters, and a mock election was organized. As noted after the meeting, the experiment was successful and the novelty was acceptable and feasible for the blind.

Informational Meetings with PWD Voters

On September 24, at the initiative of the CEC Working Group on Persons with Disabilities and in cooperation with the Training Centre, a remote meeting was held with the representatives of the Deaf Union of Georgia, and on September 27 - with the representatives from regional organizations of the Union of the Blind of Georgia. A trainer of the Training Centre introduced the following issues to the meeting participants: voting day procedures, available services, sanitary-hygienic norms adopted for safe participation in the elections, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi electoral district.

Information Meeting “Promote Women’s Capacity Development for Exercising Passive Suffrage”

On September 2, the Training Centre conducted a remote information meeting “Promote Women’s Capacity Development for Exercising Passive Suffrage”. The course participants got acquainted with the following issues: gender equality in elections, major legislative novelties related to the Municipal Elections, rules and deadlines for registration of a candidate for Sakrebulo membership or a mayoral candidate, pre-election campaign (agitation) and prevention of misappropriation of administrative resources, legal status of a proxy of the election subject, fighting against hate speech in the election process, legal status of the representative of the electoral subject (communication with election commissions, polling day, election disputes).

Overall, 29 female representatives of 12 election subjects participated⁴² in the program.

Processing the Election Information by Gender

The CEC, in cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), created an information portal in 2020. The portal contains the following gender disaggregated statistics on the elections held since 2014: persons registered in the Unified List of Voters, turnout from the list, voters participating in the elections, candidates nominated by electoral subjects, elected persons, observers, media and the proxies of election subjects, officials of the Election Administration (CEC, district, precinct). Statistics are available on the portal in an editable format (Excel), and the data on the diagrams are presented both in numerical and percentage indicators. It should be noted, that through the portal it is possible to simultaneously display the data on the elections held in different years. Detailed information can be found at the link: <https://genderstatistics.cec.gov.ge/>

42 Political parties participating in the training program: "Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia", "Lelo", "Third Force", "European Democrats", "European Socialists", "Girchi", David Tarkhan-Mouravi, Irma Inashvili – "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia", "Snap Elections - United Georgia - Democratic Movement", "Davit Chichinadze – Tribuna", "Tavisupleba - Zviad Gamsakhurdias Gza ", "Mamuka Tuskadze - Social Justice", "Eka Beselia - for Justice", "Reformers", "Sakhe+", also three candidates nominated by the initiative group.

X. Cooperation with Electoral Stakeholders Meetings with the Representatives of Non-governmental Organizations

The CEC Chairperson and officials held a lot of meetings with the representatives of the local NGOs:

August 6 - The CEC Chairperson held an introductory meeting with the representatives of local non-governmental organizations and introduced the new Deputy Giorgi Sioridze. The participants of the meeting discussed the following issues: legislative news, activities to be carried out by the Election Administration to conduct the elections in a safe environment amid the pandemic.

August 18 - CEC officials discussed the draft resolutions with 16 representatives of local non-governmental and international organizations. The draft resolutions were related to the participation of the voters in medical facilities and in isolation during the Municipal Elections and development of the epidemiological protocol. Also, the meeting participant received information on the Code of Conduct (Ethics) to be concluded between the CEC and local non-governmental organizations.

On September 11, the Training Centre held a remote information meeting with representatives of local non-governmental organizations and election subjects (political parties/initiative groups) registered to observe the Municipal Elections. Legislative novelties and the following issues were discussed within the meeting: basic principles and the role of the parties involved in the elections, mandate within the ethical and legal framework, combating hate speech in the electoral process, polling day and regulations related to the voting process amid the pandemic, exercise of voters' rights, regulations for photo and video recording at the polling station, including video recording of the vote counting process, summarizing the voting results, the basis and technique of drawing up a complaint/application on the polling day, verification/recount of the PEC voting results by the District Election Commission and the participation of the parties involved. The meeting participants were informed about the rules and procedural innovations of the use of electronic technologies within the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

The information meeting was attended by 31 representatives of 14 local observer organizations, including 21 (69%) women and 10 (31%) men, as well as 43 representatives (16 (37%) women and 27 (63%) men) of 17 election subjects.

Code of Conduct (Ethics) for the CEC and Domestic Observer Organizations

On September 1, the CEC Chairperson and representatives of local observer organizations signed the Code of Conduct (Ethics). The document provided for an agreement between the Election Administration and local observer organizations on the adherence to professional and ethical norms. The text was jointly developed by the parties to the Memorandum.

The parties agreed to respect the rule of law, to be guided by internationally recognized standards of elections and the Code of Conduct (Ethics), to promote fair and transparent conduct of the elections, to implement the basic electoral principles and obey the Georgian election legislation, to be impartial and perform their duties transparently and objectively.

The guiding principles of the Code of Conduct (Ethics) were as follows: political neutrality and impartiality, transparency and accountability, promotion of a free and fair electoral environment, proactive cooperation and ensuring a safe electoral environment amid the pandemic.

The document was signed by 24 local observer organizations.

Meeting with the Public Defender

On August 26, the CEC Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson held a meeting with the Public Defender and Representative of the Public Defender. The participants of the meeting talked about the following issues: election security, video monitoring of the vote counting process, independent participation of persons with disabilities in the elections and importance of submitting the complaints electronically.

The CEC Chairperson informed the Public Defender about the epidemiological protocol of the polling day adopted by the CEC, as well as the documents on the participation of voters in medical facilities and in isolation. These documents were updated by the CEC in cooperation with observer organizations and political parties.

Informational Meetings with Media Representatives

On September 13, the Training Centre staff held a remote informational meeting with the representatives of regional media outlets. The meeting participants got acquainted with the following issues: the role of media and rights in the electoral process; regulations on photo/video filming on the E-day in the polling building; the role of media and other stakeholders to ensure a safe electoral environment; combatting hate speech in the electoral process and role of media; regulations related to the conduct of the elections amid the pandemic; pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

Twenty-six representatives of regional media outlets participated in the informational meeting, including 21 (81%) women and 5 (19%) men.

On September 17-18, representatives of the CEC and the Training Centre briefed media representatives on the activities carried out and planned by the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections. The meeting was supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). The participants got acquainted with the following issues: the role of media in the election process, the role and legal status of the media in the voting process, regulations on photo/video filming on the E-day, combatting hate speech in the electoral process and the role of media, the role of media and other stakeholders to ensure a safe electoral environment, regulations related to the conduct of the elections amid the pandemic and novelties of the election legislation.

The informational meeting was attended by 17 representatives of various media outlets, including 15 (88%) women and 2 (12%) men.

Working Meeting with the Head of the Civil Service Bureau

On September 14, the leadership of the CEC, the Training Centre and the Civil Service Bureau discussed the cooperation mechanisms aimed at informing public servants to prevent the misuse of administrative resources during the election process. With the support of the Civil Service Bureau, the CEC and the Training Centre raised the awareness about the updated distance information-learning course “Electoral Campaign and Administrative Resources – Prevention of Misuse of Administrative Resources in the Electoral Process and Appropriate Response to Violations” in the state agencies at central and municipal levels.

The information-learning program for public servants was covered by 9,174 persons during the election period, of these, 2,770 (30%) were women and 6,404 (70%) – men.

Workshop with Judges

On September 16, with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the judges who review administrative cases on election issues were briefed on the following matters: novelties of the electoral legislation and the changes that took place after the elections. An international expert from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) introduced international practice and standards.

Working Meeting with the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

On September 16, officials of the Central Election Commission (CEC), the Training Centre and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (MIA Academy) discussed the collaboration mechanisms that should be ensured to inform the policemen and election commission members on election security issues.

On September 17-18, in cooperation with the Training Centre and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, a remote information-learning course “Elections and Security” was held. Within the course, the legislative novelties and the following issues were discussed: the importance of a safe electoral environment for democratic elections, electoral stakeholders and their role in the election security, identification of security risks during the voting process at the polling station, legislative mechanisms to ensure the security during the voting process at the polling station, regulations related to holding elections in a safe environment amid the pandemic.

Total of 879 employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the program.

Information Forum with Public Servants

On September 27, an information forum was held with public servants in partnership with the CEC, the Training Centre, and the Civil Service Bureau to address the prevention of misuse of administrative resources in the election process. At the forum, the CEC Chairperson and the Head of the Civil Service Bureau focused on the role of public servants in the democratic conduct of the elections.

Director of the Training Centre and the Head of the CEC’s Legal Department delivered a presentation to the forum participants. During the forum, by sharing national legislation and international practice, public servants received information on the following issues: legal rights of civil servants in electoral processes; conduct of the pre-election agitation, participation in agitation - restrictions and prohibitions; use of administrative resources in the election process - restrictions and prohibitions; international standards for the use of administrative resources; use of official or service position in the election process - restrictions and prohibitions; preventing the use of administrative resources and official or service position in the electoral process and response to violations.

The information forum was held in a remote format and was attended by representatives of central and municipal government agencies.

Meeting with the Representatives of the Penitentiary Service

On September 28, the CEC Training Centre held an information meeting with the representatives of the penitentiary institutions of the state sub-agency - Special Penitentiary Service within the system of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the participants about the activities carried out by the Election Administration to ensure involvement of voters residing in the penitentiary facilities of the Special Penitentiary Service during the Municipal Elections and to promote the exercise of their universal suffrage. The event focused on the issues of organizing electoral processes in penitentiary institutions, such as: persons authorized to be present in the polling station and their legal rights, as well as measures to provide the services for voters in compliance with the epidemiological protocol during the voting process.

The meeting was attended by 11 representatives of 10 penitentiary institutions.

Meetings with the President of Georgia

On September 30, the CEC Chairperson briefed the President of Georgia on the following issues: the activities carried out by the Election Administration to conduct the Municipal Elections in a democratic, transparent and safe environment; the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District; video recording of the vote-counting process to be carried out at 3200 election precincts; involvement of observation missions in the electoral processes.

On November 1, the CEC Chairperson informed the President of Georgia about the following issues: the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the second round of the Elections, the shortcomings identified during the elections, recalculation of the second round results in the precincts identified by random sampling and the review of complaints submitted to the CEC.

Meeting with the Representatives of Political Parties, Local and International Organizations

On September 20, CEC officials briefed the representatives of political parties, local NGOs, and international organizations about the activities carried out and planned by the Election Administration (EA) for the Municipal Elections, video monitoring of the vote counting on the election day and the observance of sanitary norms on the E-day. The meeting participants discussed the issues related to the establishment of polling stations for the participation of voters in inpatient medical institutions and in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation). They also discussed the initiative of Giorgi Sioridze, CEC Deputy Chairperson which implied a change of voting booths.

The meeting participants got information about the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District and mock elections to be held with the use of the electronic technology on September 22 at the Election Administration.

Meeting with the State Inspector

On September 28, the CEC Chairperson briefed the State Inspector on the following issues: preparation of the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections, modification of polling booths, importance of the protection of voters' personal data both in the pre-election process and on the polling day and cooperation with the State Inspector in this direction. The State Inspector expressed readiness for active cooperation with the CEC.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs

On September 2, CEC Chairperson Giorgi Kalandarishvili and Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the conduct of the Municipal Elections in a safe and peaceful environment.

The Memorandum envisaged the cooperation and coordinated work of the parties, as well as the exchange of information, the organization of joint trainings and workshops to ensure the peaceful and free environment for the voting process on the election day.

Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Usage of the Administrative Resources

On September 8, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CEC, the Inter-Agency Commission for Free and Fair Elections, and 18 local NGOs. The Memorandum was developed as a result of the cooperation between the Election Administration, non-governmental organizations and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

The signatories to the mentioned document agreed that the norms of the Electoral Code would be interpreted by them in accordance with the text of the Memorandum and they would be guided by the definition set out in the Memorandum during administrative and judicial proceedings

International Partnership

During the both rounds of the Municipal Elections, Chairperson and officials of the CEC held meetings with representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia:

Meeting with the Acting Deputy Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America, and Mission Director of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

On August 9, the CEC Chairperson informed Peter A. Wiebler, Acting Deputy Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America, and Mission Director of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on the activities planned by the CEC for the Municipal Elections. The parties discussed the election environment and current challenges, as well as the issue of deepening the cooperation.

Meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On August 13, the CEC Chairperson briefed the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mark Clayton on the measures to be taken for the Municipal Elections and the existing needs, as well as the possibility of partnership and support in this regard.

On October 12, the CEC Chairperson briefed the Ambassador Mark Clayton on the review of the applications and vote recalculation process, as well as preparations for the second round of the Municipal Elections. Mark Clayton shared the assessments of the OSCE stating that the elections were well organized and said the British Embassy would also observe the second round of the elections.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Israel to Georgia

On August 16, the CEC Chairperson briefed Ran Gidor, Ambassador of Israel, on the news of the Municipal Elections, as well as on increasing transparency and ensuring inclusiveness. The parties discussed the pre-election environment, also, the opportunities and prospects for deepening the cooperation. The Ambassador of Israel spoke about the importance of the Municipal Elections for the stability of Georgia and expressed readiness to observe the elections.

Meetings with the Ambassador and Acting Ambassador of the European Union

On August 17, the CEC Chairperson briefed Acting Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia Julien Crampes on the implementation of electoral reform, as well as on the activities carried out and planned for the organization of the elections, which involved ensuring a safe environment for the electoral processes.

On September 3, the CEC Chairperson informed Carl Hartzell, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia and Deputy Ambassador on the sanitary and hygienic measures to be taken to conduct the elections in a safe environment at DEC's and on polling stations.

On October 2, the CEC Chairperson briefed the EU Ambassador to Georgia, who was monitoring the elections with the members of the European Parliament and other international observation missions, on the ongoing Municipal Elections and the pilot project.

Meetings with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Germany to Georgia

On August 19, the CEC Chairperson briefed Hubert Knirsch, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Georgia on the changes made within the framework of the electoral reform, as well as on the activities planned and implemented by the Election Administration and the election environment. The parties discussed the prospects of cooperation and the Ambassador of Germany expressed readiness to observe the Municipal Elections.

On November 4, CEC officials briefed Ambassador Hubert Knirsch on the following issues: the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the second round of the Municipal Elections, the recount of precinct election results, video recording of the vote counting process, and the review of complaints. Hubert Knirsch responded to the OSCE/ODIHR report and noted that the electoral process was administered at a professional level.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Lithuania to Georgia

On August 24, the CEC Chairperson informed Andrius Kalindra, Ambassador of Lithuania to Georgia, and Deputy Ambassador on the implementation of the electoral reform and conduct of the elections amid pandemic in a safe manner, by adhering to the democratic principles, as well as the importance of international monitoring missions.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia

On September 9, the CEC Chairperson briefed the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia, Imamura Akira, on the pilot project on vote counting planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District. At the meeting, the parties discussed the prospects of future cooperation and the issues of observation on the Municipal Elections.

Meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Georgia

On September 13, CEC Chairperson briefed Mr. Răzvan Rotundu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Georgia on the following issues: novelties planned by the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections, the activities carried out and planned to conduct the elections in a safe and transparent environment and the pilot project on vote counting planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

On November 3, the CEC Chairperson briefed Mr. Răzvan Rotundu, Ambassador on the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the second round of the Municipal Elections, including the recount of precinct election results and video recording of the vote counting process. The parties discussed the prospects of improving the electoral process and possible cooperation in this regard.

Meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria

On September 14, CEC Chairperson briefed H.E. Thomas Mühlmann – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria on the legislative amendments, the pilot project of vote counting to be carried out in №4 Krtsanisi electoral district, video recording of the vote-counting procedures and recalculation of votes at the Precinct Election Commissionss. The parties discussed the existing challenges of holding elections amid pandemic and the best international practice in this regard.

Meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to Georgia

On October 2, the CEC Chairperson informed H.E. Helene Sand Andresen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to Georgia, about the activities carried out for the Municipal Elections and for the voting day.

Meeting with the Representatives of Foreign Embassies Operating in Georgia

At a remote meeting on September 29, the CEC Chairperson and the Director of the Training Centre briefed 14 representatives of foreign embassies and delegations operating in Georgia on the following issues: legislative amendments, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, the Epidemiological Protocol of the voting day, including electoral participation of the voters residing in inpatient medical facilities and in isolation. The meeting participants also discussed professional training of election commissions, activities to inform voters and stakeholders, inclusive election environment, election credibility and security, including mechanisms to prevent hate speech and the spread of misinformation.

Meetings with the Representatives of International Organizations

The CEC Chairperson and leadership held meetings with the representatives of international organizations:

Meeting with the Head of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Georgia

On August 10, the CEC Chairperson informed the Chief of Party for Georgia, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), about the measures to be taken and the existing needs for the Municipal Elections in Georgia, as well as the possibility of partnership and support in this regard.

Meeting with the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia

At a remote meeting on September 27, the CEC Chairperson informed Natalia Voutova, Head of the Council of Europe (CoE) Office in Georgia about the legislative novelties and the following issues: decision-making at CEC sessions, video recording of the vote counting process and the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

Meeting with the Representatives of the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation, Reforms Assistance Center and the European Association of Political Consultants (EAPC)

On September 30, the CEC Chairperson briefed the representatives of the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation, Reforms Assistance Center and the European Association of Political Consultants (EAPC) on the activities carried out by the Election Administration for the Municipal Elections.

Meeting with the Members of the European Parliamentary Delegation

On September 30, the CEC officials briefed members of the European Parliamentary Delegation on the following issues: video recording of the vote counting process, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, upgraded polling booths, and the activities carried out by the Election Administration to conduct the Municipal Elections in a democratic, transparent and safe environment.

Meeting with the Representatives of the Election Administrations of other Countries

On October 1, CEC officials briefed the representatives of the election administrations of 14 countries registered for the Municipal Elections on the following issues: election process, innovations planned for the polling day, and future cooperation.

Meeting with the Delegates from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

On October 1, the CEC officials briefed the delegates from 15 countries of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on the following issues: activities carried out by the Election Administration to conduct the Municipal Elections in a democratic, transparent and safe environment, video recording of the vote counting process, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, upgraded polling booths, as well as the importance of the involvement of observer organizations in the electoral process.

Meeting with the Representatives of the European Parliament Monitoring Mission

On 2 October, the CEC Chairperson briefed the representatives of the European Parliament Monitoring Mission on the following issues: activities carried out by the Election Administration to conduct the Municipal Elections in a democratic, transparent and safe environment and planned innovations.

Fourth Plenary Assembly of the Global Network

On October 21-22, the CEC Chairperson participated in the Fourth Plenary Assembly of the Global Network organized by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic. The CEC Chairperson delivered a presentation on “Election Process and Covid-19” and spoke about the challenges of the Election Administration of Georgia related to holding the elections in a safe environment amid pandemic and the ways to solve them.

Eighteenth European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies

On October 29, the CEC Chairperson participated in the Eighteenth European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies organized by the Venice Commission. The CEC Chairperson delivered a presentation about the challenges of the Election Administration of Georgia related to holding the elections in a safe environment amid pandemic.

Meetings with the Election Observation Missions

Meetings with the Election Observation Mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

On 26 August, CEC Chairperson and officials briefed Albert Jonsson, the Head of Election Observation Mission and other representatives on the Epidemiological Protocol adopted for the safe conduct of the elections amid pandemic. CEC Deputy Chairperson Giorgi Sioridze spoke about the legislative amendments made within the framework of the electoral reform and the implementation of these changes.

On September 15, the Director of the CEC Training Centre briefed the representatives of the Observation Mission on the following issues: vocational training programs of the District Election Commissions, the concept of intensive training for the Precinct Election Commissions, the process of ongoing training of the PEC members for the implementation of a pilot project planned in N4 Krtsanisi electoral district, and information-study programs developed to promote the election capacities of the electoral stakeholders. Representatives of the International Observation Mission got acquainted with the e-learning programs and information-training materials.

On September 24, CEC officials briefed Marc Fumagalli, Senior Political Advisor to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the National Program Coordinator of the Commissioner on the following issues: activities carried out by the Election Administration to promote the involvement of ethnic minorities in the electoral process, training of PEC members, educational programs, and raising voter awareness.

On November 5, the CEC Chairperson briefed Albert Jonsson, the Head of Election Observation Mission and other representatives of the mission on the recount of PEC data, as well as planned innovations. The Head of the Observation Mission thanked the CEC Chairperson for the cooperation.

Meetings with the Observation Mission from the International Republican Institute (IRI)

On September 7, the Chairperson and leadership of the CEC detailed the expert analysts from the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Long-Term Observation Mission on the following issues: the activities carried out for the organization of the elections, video monitoring of the vote counting process and the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District.

On October 1, CEC officials spoke with the representatives of the Observation Mission about local and international observer organizations and their assessments and findings.

Meetings with the Observation Mission of the National Democratic Institute (NDI)

At the remote meeting on September 8, the CEC Chairperson and officials briefed the analysts of the Long-Term Election Observation Mission of the NDI about the following issues: introduction of technologies into the electoral process, holding the elections in a safe environment, an innovative project of the CEC – Information Security Center and the Epidemiological Protocol of the polling day.

On September 16, the Director of the Training Centre briefed the representatives of the observation mission on the following issues: concept of training for election commissions; re-training of the PEC members for the implementation of the pilot project in the №4 Krtsanisi DEC; implemented information-training programs, including for female candidates and representatives of local observer organizations, election subjects and media; the e-learning program elaborated for civil servants to prevent the misuse of administrative resources and official/positional status in civil service institutions during the election process; measures taken to ensure an inclusive election environment; information and training materials.

On October 1, CEC officials spoke with representatives of the Observation Mission about local and international observer organizations and their assessments and findings.

At a remote meeting on November 3, the CEC Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons briefed the long-term analysts of the Observation Mission on the following issues: activities carried out by the Election Administration for the second round of the Municipal Elections, including video recording of the recount of the PEC results and vote counting, the pilot project implemented in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District and the new design of the election booths.

Meetings with the Representatives of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO)

On September 27, the CEC Chairperson and senior officials briefed the representatives of the Observation Mission on the following issues: changes implemented within the electoral reform, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, video recording of the vote counting process and posting of this material on the Internet platform.

On October 8, the CEC officials and the participants of the Observation Mission discussed the E-day of the Municipal Elections and the period after that, including the video recording of the vote counting process, the pilot project planned in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, and recount of ballots. Members of the Observation Mission assessed the polling process of October 2 as well-organized.

Meeting with the Representatives of the Organization “Democracy International”

On October 6, the CEC Chairperson held a meeting with the representatives of the international observer organization “Democracy International”. The election development manager and election development specialist of the organization shared to the Chairperson the results of the observation at the polling stations. In particular, they noted that the level of training of PEC members was quite high, and the electoral process was transparent in general. They also observed the implementation of the ongoing pilot project in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District. According to the foreign observers, the Election Administration (EA) of Georgia sets an example for the election administrations of many Eastern European countries in various directions. For his part, the CEC Chairperson thanked the representatives of the organization for observing the elections and for sharing their findings. Opportunities of future cooperation were also discussed during the meeting.

XI. Information Campaign

For the Municipal Elections, the CEC identified the main priority areas of the information campaign, including media relations, and informing voters and electoral stakeholders. The aim of the information campaign was to inform Georgian citizens about the activities of the Election Administration and the services offered to voters during the election period and on the polling day.

Under the new concept, the CEC logo, the CEC official website and social media pages were updated. An active information campaign was carried out in social networks. The social networks were managed with new approaches, which was reflected on both the visual and the content side. The official Facebook page of the CEC was updated and the official page of the CEC Chairperson was created. The pages of the CEC Chairperson were created on the social networks of Twitter and Instagram.

During the reporting period, the CEC produced 17 advertisement clips, which were broadcast by central, as well as regional television and radio. Advertising banners were posted on the websites of more than 80 central and regional news agencies and 23 external banners were installed. Advertising material was also posted on the websites – “youtube.com”, “adjaranet.com” and “palitravideo.ge”.

There was an important novelty: All CEC sessions were live streamed on the CEC official page in the social network Facebook.

During the reporting period, the CEC publicized 30 information statements on the current election issues. In total, 214 pieces of news were published on the CEC website and social networks. Seventy briefings were held at the CEC regarding the issues planned according to the schedule of election activities and ongoing events.

In order to inform the voters and disseminate information on election issues, the leadership of the CEC and District Election Commissions actively participated in the programs of various media outlets. During the reporting period, 20 live reports were conducted with the participation of the CEC Chairperson, commission members and the Administration representatives.

Information Campaign “Talk to Voters”

For the Municipal Elections, the Election Administration conducted an information campaign “Talk to Voters” throughout Georgia, including in the regions populated by ethnic minorities. The campaign aimed to strengthen communication between the Election Administration and voters, as well as inform Georgian citizens about the 2021 Local Self-government Elections. In full compliance with all regulations related to the pandemic, the representatives of the Election Administration and volunteers held meetings throughout Georgia. Overall, 297 information campaigns were held at the places of public gathering in Tbilisi as well

as in the centers and villages of 63 municipalities, including 13 meetings in the villages populated by ethnic minorities. Six meetings were held with Azerbaijani voters and 5 meetings - with Armenian voters. In addition, two meetings were held with small groups of ethnic minorities. Representatives of the Election Administration, along with volunteers, informed voters on suffrage and the Municipal Elections, and offered the service to check their and their families' data in the Unified List of Voters with the use of a tablet and a quick payment machine.

The Precinct Election Commissionss distributed information flyers according to the place of registration. The flyers contained information on the data verification in the Unified List of Voters and the voting procedures. In addition, PEC representatives distributed the CEC Chairperson's address to young people who had reached the voting age by the E-day. Voters in Krtsanisi Electoral District also received an information flyer about the use of electronic vote counting machines, because these devices were used in this district as part of a pilot project on October 2. It is noteworthy, that the flyers were distributed in 26 branches of the Justice House throughout the country in cooperation with the Justice House.

Informing the Voters in Inpatient Medical Facilities and in Isolation

The CEC also provided information to the voters residing in inpatient medical facilities and in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) about their participation in the elections. The CEC sent text messages to the voters registered in the database of the relevant agency and within the territory of the election district and called on them to register the request for a mobile ballot box. However, the voters residing in inpatient medical facilities and in quarantine received information flyers about their participation in the elections. In order to participate in the elections (I and II rounds), the voters in self-isolation could apply to the CEC Contact Hub with an oral statement and request the service of a mobile ballot box. This was an additional direction of the CEC Contact Hub, which was carried out to provide the mentioned services to the voters.

Presentation of the Interim Report on Elections

The CEC prepared an interim report on the Municipal Elections, which included information on the main activities carried out by the Election Administration from the date of announcing the elections, August 2 to September 15.

On September 28, the CEC Chairperson submitted the interim report to the representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in Georgia, and on September 29 - to the representatives of local observer organizations.

CEC Contact Hub

The CEC Contact Hub (032 2 2510051) provided information to voters and electoral stakeholders every day from 10:00 to 20:00, and on the polling day (I and II rounds) – during 24 hours. Information on election issues was available in Georgian, English, Azerbaijani, Armenian and sign languages. It was also possible to leave questions during non-working hours and get answers through a voice message or an online chat.

During the reporting period, citizens used the service of the CEC Contact Hub on 26,637 occasions.

Questions received at the CEC Contact Hub were mainly related to the following issues: verification of personal data in the unified voters' list, Election Code, legal acts adopted by the CEC, election subject, monitoring and media, contact information of the CEC/district/precinct, request for a mobile ballot box, voting day procedures.

During the election period, the CEC Contact Hub employed 23 operators (including two persons with disabilities), who underwent intensive training.

Publicizing Statistical Data

Due to the high interest of the public, the CEC prepared and published various statistical information according to the elections held.

Statistics of Invalid Ballots

Due to the high public interest, the CEC processed and publicized the statistics of the ballot papers that were annulled according to the results of the first and second rounds of the Municipal Elections⁴³. Based on the information processed by the CEC, it is identified that the average percentage of invalid ballots in the first round of the elections was 3.42%, while, according to the results of the second round, this indicator was 2.96%. The number of ballots cancelled during the Municipal Elections does not differ significantly from the average amount of invalid ballots identified in all other elections.

Statistical Data Related to the First Round of the Elections

The Election Administration made all the election processes public, including the vote counting procedures, which were monitored by local and international observers, electoral subjects, and representative of media sources. All interested parties could observe the process of summarizing the preliminary results of the elections through live broadcasting at the CEC. There were also various other mechanisms to verify each data in detail.

43 Comparative statistics of invalid ballots:

<https://cesko.ge/static/res/docs/%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98.pdf>

Statistics of invalid ballots from the 2002 Local Self-government Elections to the 2021 elections:

<https://cesko.ge/static/file/202112214058-%E1%83%91%E1%83%90%E1%83%97%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%98%E1%83%99%E1%83%90-2002-2021.pdf>

Total of 11,159 summary protocols were drawn up during the first round of the elections. Each summary protocol was signed by the commission members appointed on the professional ground as well as those appointed by the authorized parties. For the detailed information, see table 5.

Table 5.

Type of Summary Protocol	Number of Signatures									
	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Local -Proportional	1 444	1 287	628	258	77	33	6	6	3	1
Local - Majoritarian	1 440	1 276	615	247	63	18	6	3	4	1
Mayor	1 435	1 296	624	262	77	29	10	5	4	1
Total	4 319	3 859	1 867	767	217	80	22	14	11	3

The above fact confirms that each member of the commission, be it appointed on the professional grounds or by the authorized parties, was comprehensively informed about the number of voters who arrived at the polling station, as well as the type of ballot paper issued to each voter and the vote counting process, in general. All this was confirmed by their signatures in the summary protocols. For the detailed information, see table 6.

In order to find out how many different opinions, amendment protocols or explanations were recorded in the summary protocols, see the statistics below in detail:

Table 6

Summary Protocol of the Precinct Election Commissions for the Local Elections Held through the Proportional Contest	Number
Amendment	239
Explanation	353
Different opinion	2
Time and/or date are missing or incorrectly specified	178
Unsealed	29
Summary Protocol of the Precinct Election Commissions for the Mayoral Elections	Number
Amendment	144
Explanation	344
Different opinion	2
Time and/or date are missing or incorrectly specified	170
Unsealed	27
Summary Protocol of the Precinct Election Commissions for the Local Elections Held through the Majoritarian Contest	Number
Amendment	187
Explanation	319
Different opinion	4
Time and/or date are missing or incorrectly specified	162
Unsealed	27

It should also be noted that a PEC member has the right to express a different opinion if he/she does not agree with the data entered in the summary protocol. As can be seen from the above statistics, only eight persons out of more than 65,000 PEC members expressed a different opinion.

It should also be noted that amendment protocols were drawn up in the following cases: 275 amendment protocols were drawn up for the votes received by the subjects, 66 - for the invalid ballot papers, 42 - for the number of voters in the special list, 138 - for the amount of voters participating in the elections and 41 - for the turnout. The explanations concerned: transfer of extra ballot paper to a voter by the registrar - 176 explanations, date and time incorrectly indicated or omitted in the summary protocol - 292, signature missing or incorrectly indicated in the summary protocol - 123, missing the voter's signature on the voters' list - 68, absence or incorrect indication of the seal number in the summary protocol - 61, omitting the commission seal number on the summary protocol - 55 and various reasons - 235.

However, a voter in the special list might vote only in the proportional part of the elections, or in the mayoral and the proportional part. Therefore, such a voter could not receive all three types of ballot papers because he/she did not participate in the majoritarian, or majoritarian and mayoral elections.

The number of voters in the special list (penitentiary facilities and connected precincts) was 6,247, although 5,350 of them were eligible to participate in the Mayoral Elections, while 4,356 individuals were eligible to vote in the elections through the majoritarian system.

From the employees of the Election Administration included in the special lists for the 2021 elections (members of district and precinct election commissions, contract employees), 25,495 voters were registered, out of which 10,526 individuals participated under the majoritarian system.

In addition to the above information, the CEC clarified that a voter had to make only one signature on the voters' list regardless of what kind of elections he/she was eligible to participate in or how many ballot papers were issued to him/her. Accordingly, the voter's signature was reflected in the number of voters participating in the polling, in the summary protocols on the voting results of all three types of the elections.

Under the law, not all voters had the opportunity to participate in all three types of the elections. For example, as it is known, the voters included in the special list of voters (the Election Administration officials; military servicemen, persons with special ranks, detainees, voters in medical facilities) did not have the right to vote in the elections held through the majoritarian electoral system, in cases provided by the law. Consequently, a ballot paper of the respective elections was not issued for the voter, which, while summarizing, resulted into less ballot papers in comparison to the total number of signatures of the voters participating in the polling.

The data imbalance in the summary protocols on the voting results (more or less number of ballot papers in comparison to the amount of voters participating in the polling) could be caused in the following cases:

- More than the required number of ballot papers were found in the special envelope, which led to the invalidation of the ballots (this resulted in both less and excess ballot papers in comparison to the number of signatures due to the fact that the voter did not receive the relevant type of a ballot paper that should have been issued and extra ballot paper of the relevant type was issued);
- The registrar commission member did not issue the appropriate number of ballot papers to the voter, which naturally led to a lack of ballot papers in comparison to the amount of voters participating in the polling;
- The registrar commission member forgot to sign in the voters' list while issuing the ballot paper(s) to the voter, which led to excess number of ballots in comparison to the total amount of signatures of voters participating in the polling;
- A ballot paper was issued to the voter, but after that the voter did not participate in any or all type of the elections (did not fill in the ballot or did not place the ballot paper(s) in the box).

It should also be noted, that specific election subjects did not nominate candidates in all majoritarian electoral districts. For example, in Tbilisi, 31 electoral subjects had only 12 majoritarian candidates and 16 mayoral candidates. In case the election subjects did not have a majoritarian or mayoral candidate nominated in a concrete electoral district, the voter participated only in the proportional part of the elections and/or elected only the mayoral or majoritarian candidate nominated by the mentioned electoral subject. In other cases, the voter did not circle any candidate in the ballot paper, because no candidate of his/her preferred election subject was included in the list. This circumstance became visible within the framework of the pilot project implemented in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, where all three types of elections were placed in three columns on a single ballot paper. In other districts, this circumstance was reflected in the number of invalid ballots, which was also confirmed by the recount.

Statistical Data Related to the Second Round of the Elections

In the second round of the Elections, 2,084 summary protocols were drawn up. For the detailed information, see table 7.

Table 7.

Type of Summary Protocol	Number of Signatures									
	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Mayor	472	623	453	175	63	27	6	2	1	1
Local - Majoritarian	63	78	63	40	8	8	1	0	0	0
Total	535	701	516	215	71	35	7	2	1	1

In order to find out how many different opinions, amendment protocols or explanations were recorded in the summary protocols, see the table 8 in detail:

Table 8.

Summary Protocol of the Precinct Election Commissions for the Mayoral Elections	Number
Amendment	53
Explanation	103
Different opinion	92
Time and/or date are missing or incorrectly specified	71
Unsealed	4
Summary Protocol of the Precinct Election Commissions for the Local Elections Held through the Majoritarian Contest	Number
Amendment	6
Explanation	14
Different opinion	25
Time and/or date are missing or incorrectly specified	10
Unsealed	1

It should also be noted, that amendment protocols were drawn up in the following cases: 17 amendment protocols were drawn up for the votes received by the election subjects, 7 - for the invalid ballot papers, nine - for the number of voters in the special list, 20 - for the total amount of voters participating in the elections and five - for the turnout. Besides, the explanations concerned: transfer of an extra ballot paper to a voter by the registrar - 16 explanations, date and time incorrectly indicated or omitted in the summary protocol - 26, the voter's signature missing on the Unified List of Voters - 6, absence or incorrect indication of the seal number in the summary protocol - six.

XII. Printing Ballot Papers

The CEC implemented the process of printing ballot papers and summary protocols for the Municipal Elections (I and II rounds) in seven printing houses. The whole process was observed by the CEC members as well as the representatives of non-governmental organizations.

For the first round of the elections, total of 9,293,350 ballots were printed of the following types and quantities:

- A total of 3,085,950 ballot papers printed for the elections to be held through the proportional contest;
- A total of 3,085,950 ballot papers printed for the elections to be held through the majoritarian contest;
- A total of 3,085,950 ballot papers printed for the Elections of Self-governing City/Self-governing Community;
- For №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, where the pilot project was conducted - 35,500 ballot papers of a different type;
- Additionally, for the special Covid precincts - 15,600 ballot papers.

According to the legislation, for an accurate calculation of the ballot papers, each of them was numbered consecutively. All the ballot papers were bound as notebooks. Every notebook contained 50 ballot papers. Each electoral precinct was given ballot papers according to the number of voters.

Also, in accordance with the electoral districts densely populated by ethnic minorities, 496,350 Georgian-Azerbaijani and 181,500 Georgian-Armenian ballot papers were printed. Overall, 100 ballot papers were printed in Georgian-Armenian for the special Covid precincts.

For the second round of the elections, total of 2,095,950 ballots were printed of the following types and quantities at three printing houses:

- A total of 257,150 ballot papers printed for the elections to be held through the majoritarian contest;
- A total of 1,803,250 ballot papers printed for the Elections of Self-governing City/Self-governing Community;
- For №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District, where the pilot project was conducted - 35,500 ballot papers of a different type;
- Additionally, for the special Covid precincts - 6,350 ballot papers.

As for the districts densely populated by ethnic minorities, 5,600 ballot papers were printed in Georgian-Armenian.

Within the timeframes prescribed by the law, the CEC transferred ballot papers to District Election Commissions. On their side, DEC's sent them to PECs no later than 12:00 before the start of voting.

XIII. First Round of the Municipal Elections

XIII.I. October 2, 2021. Voting Day

The Municipal Elections were held on October 2, 2021. The polling stations were opened at 07:00 a.m. on the E-Day and the relevant procedures were performed before voting. All polling stations were equipped with the necessary equipment. Updated voting booths were installed at the polling stations in Tbilisi. Sanitary-hygienic norms were observed in accordance with the epidemiological protocol established by the CEC.

On the Election Day, voters were given three types of ballot papers to participate in the Municipal Elections at polling stations: For the candidates to be elected through the majoritarian and proportional electoral systems and for mayoral candidates.

The voting process took place from 08:00 to 20:00. On the E-Day, the data on the opening of the polling stations and voter turnout were provided from the polling stations and posted on the CEC official website. For the preliminary information on the voter turnout, see table 9.

Table 9

Hour	Indicator of voters in percentage	Number of Voters
10:00	7.41	259 273
12:00	17.72	619 562
15:00	33.18	1 160 413
17:00	41.35	1 446 218
20:00	51.92	1 815 776

The polling stations were closed at 20:00, counting procedures were conducted in the PECs, as well as the summary protocols on the voting results were drawn up. After performing all the procedures prescribed by the law, summary protocols of PECs were transferred to relevant District Election Commissions. The CEC started to publicize the protocols gradually on its website: www.results.cec.gov.ge. It is noteworthy that after the voting, representatives of the opposition parties participated in the staff recruitment process for the Center which uploaded the data. Every interested person could observe the process of summarizing the preliminary results at the CEC via internet livestream. A 360-degree camera was used to broadcast the process through the CEC official Facebook account and Youtube.

The CEC Contact Hub operated from 07:00 to 24:00 on the polling day. Information briefings were held on the polling day according to the schedule published in advance.

XIII.II. Summarizing the Results of the First Round of the Elections

Summarizing the Results of the First Round of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections and Appointing the Second Round

At the session on October 16, the CEC summarized the results of the first round of Mayor-al Elections of Tbilisi City (Capital of Georgia)⁴⁴ and determined:

1. Number of voters: 1,002,900
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: 494,681
3. Number of invalid ballot papers: 13,236
4. Number of votes cast for the election subjects;
5. Candidates participating in the II round of the elections: №5 Nikanor Melia and №41 Kakha Kaladze.

At the same session, the CEC summarized the results of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections of Sakrebulo of Tbilisi (capital of Georgia) held through the proportional electoral system⁴⁵ and determined:

1. Number of voters: 1,002,900
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: 494,676
3. Number of invalid ballot papers: 15,100
4. Number of votes cast for the election subjects;
5. Deputies elected as members of the Tbilisi Sakrebulo (City Council) through the proportional electoral system.

At the same session, the CEC issued decrees on the appointment of the second round of the Elections in five self-governing cities (Tbilisi, Poti, Rustavi, Kutaisi, Batumi), 15 self-governing communities (Telavi, Tianeti, Kareli, Khashuri, Tsageri, Baghdati, Tskaltubo, Ozurgeti, Senaki, Martvili, Khobi, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku, Khelvachauri)⁴⁶ and in 24 electoral districts – through the majoritarian electoral system⁴⁷. October 30 was announced as the date for the second round of the Municipal Elections.

The District Election Commissions summarized the results of the October 2 Elections based on the enacted summary protocols of the Precinct Election Commissions and the decisions of the courts of all instances.

At the session on October 16, the CEC determined some election activities and deadlines⁴⁸. For the Second Round, in order to facilitate the election subjects, the deadline was established for withdrawing a member of the District Election Commission appointed by the authorized parties. In addition, the specific issues were regulated with regard to the replacement of a member of a district/Precinct Election Commissions/special group or an election subject representative appointed by an authorized political party in case of being infected by the New Coronavirus.

44 See the summary protocol in Annex³.

45 See the summary protocol in Annex ⁴.

46 October 16, 2021 CEC Decree №354/2021.

47 October 16, 2021 CEC Decree №355/2021.

48 October 16, 2021 CEC Ordinance №69/2021

The CEC also amended the following decrees to clarify the election procedures for the Second Round:

- №53/2021 CEC Ordinance of August 23, 2021 – Determined requirements for establishing polling stations and special groups for the participation of voters in inpatient treatment facilities and in isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) during the elections, some electoral activities and sanitary-hygienic norms.
- №54/2021 CEC Ordinance of August 23, 2021 – Determined rules on the establishment of polling stations in penitentiary institutions, composition of some Precinct Election Commissionss/special groups, some electoral activities/terms and sanitary-hygienic norms for preventing the spread of New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Infection (COVID-19).
- №55/2021 CEC Ordinance of August 23, 2021 – Determined the rule on video recording of the vote counting process during the October 2, 2021 Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Self-Governing City/Self-Governing Community.
- №58/2021 CEC Ordinance of September 3, 2021 - Conduct of the elections in №4 Krtsanisi Electoral District with the use of electronic technologies again⁴⁹.
- №40/2021 CEC Ordinance of July 26, 2021 - The term and procedure for recounting the voting results by the District Election Commissions were determined.

The CEC also adopted decrees which established the rules on the distribution and use of the funds allocated by the state for the second round of the elections, as well as the rules on the distribution and use of the funds required by the District Election Commissions.

For the second round of the elections, the CEC made a decision on the use of voting booths with modified design⁵⁰.

Forms of the voting day record book were approved for the second round of the Municipal Elections.

Term of office for the representatives of the election subjects participating in the second round of the Elections will be extended until the expiration of the deadlines for appealing the second round results. The registration period was also extended to registered observer and media organizations, which had the opportunity to make changes no later than the 5th day before the election day and to add observers or media representatives.

49 23 August, 2021 Ordinance №58/2021 was amended on the basis of 16 October, 2021 Ordinance №713/2021.

50 October 16, 2021 CEC Decree №356/2021

XIV. Second Round of the Municipal Elections

XIV.I. October 30, 2021. Voting Day

The second round of the Municipal Elections was held on October 30, 2021. The polling stations were opened at 07:00 a.m. on the E-Day and the relevant procedures were performed before voting. All polling stations were equipped with the necessary equipment. Sanitary-hygienic norms were observed in accordance with the epidemiological protocol established by the CEC.

On the Election Day, voters were given two types of ballot papers to participate in the Municipal Elections at polling stations: for the candidates to be elected through the majoritarian electoral system and for mayoral candidates.

The voting process took place from 08:00 to 20:00. On the E-Day, the data on the opening of the polling stations and voter turnout were provided from the polling stations and posted on the CEC official website. For the preliminary information on the voter turnout, see table 10.

Table 10.

Hour	Indicator of voters in percentage	Number of Voters
10:00	7.38	154 163
12:00	17.18	358 782
15:00	31.82	664 573
17:00	39.56	826 216
20:00	49.09	1 025 406

The polling stations were closed at 20:00, counting procedures were conducted in the PECs, as well as the summary protocols on the voting results were drawn up. After performing all the procedures prescribed by the law, summary protocols of PECs were transferred to relevant District Election Commissions. The CEC started to publicize the protocols gradually on its website: www.results.cec.gov.ge

The CEC Contact Hub operated from 07:00 to 24:00 on the polling day. Information briefings were held on the polling day according to the schedule published in advance.

XIV.II. Summarizing the Results of the Second Round of the Elections

At the session on November 13, the CEC summarized the results of the second round of Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City (Capital of Georgia)⁵¹ and determined:

1. Number of voters: 1,002,525
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: 480,302
3. Number of invalid ballot papers: 14,867
4. Number of votes cast for the election subjects;
5. №41 Kakha Kaladze was elected Mayor of Tbilisi City (Capital of Georgia).

At the same session, the CEC summarized the results of the October 2, 2021 Elections of Sakrebulo of Tbilisi (capital of Georgia)⁵² and determined:

1. Number of voters: 1,002,900
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: 494,676
3. Number of invalid ballot papers;
4. Deputies elected as members of the Tbilisi Sakrebulo (City Council) through the proportional electoral system;
5. Deputies elected as members of the Tbilisi Sakrebulo (City Council) through the majoritarian electoral system.

The results of the second round of the elections were also summarized by the District Election Commissions. The CEC received information about the persons elected as Sakrebulo members and Mayors in the October 2, 2021 Elections of Representative Body of the Municipality – Sakrebulo and Mayor of Self-Governing City/Self-Governing Community, according to the final protocols drawn up by the relevant election commissions⁵³.

51 See the summary protocol in Annex 5.

52 See the summary protocol in Annex 6.

53 Notification of the District Election Commissions on the results of the Sakrebulo elections in the respective district:
<https://cesko.ge/ge/archevnebi/2021/munitsipalitetis-organota-2021-tslis-archevnebi/archevnebis-shedjameba/singlview/9126997-saolqo-saarchevno-komisiebis-tsnoba-shesabamis-olqshi-sakrebulo-archevnebis-shedegebis-shesakheb>
Summary protocols on the results of the Elections of the Representative Body of the Municipality - Sakrebulo and Self-governing City/Self-governing Community:
<https://cesko.ge/ge/archevnebi/2021/munitsipalitetis-organota-2021-tslis-archevnebi/archevnebis-shedjameba/singlview/9126702-munitsipalitetis-tsarmomadgenlobiti-organos-sakrebulo-da-tvitmmartveli-qalaqis-tvitmma rtveli-temis-meris-2021-tslis-2-oqtombris-archevnebis-shedegebis-shemadjamebeli-oqmebi>

XV. Applications, Complaints and Electoral Disputes

With the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the CEC launched a new online service, a program for the electronic submission of the complaints for the Municipal Elections. At the working meeting held at the CEC, the representatives of the political parties got acquainted with the mentioned initiative. In particular, the novelties related to the procedures for online submission of complaints, registration of representatives by the authorized parties and appointment of commission members were discussed. Also, the meeting participants reviewed the conditions for submitting the documents required for the registration of candidates nominated by interested election subjects.

In order to improve the process of election dispute resolution, the CEC and the Training Centre conducted intensive training for the officials of District Election Commissions.

From the day when the elections were called until their completion (I and II rounds), the CEC received a total of 70 applications/complaints submitted by the observer organizations and election subjects. Of these, 51 complaints were submitted by the parties, 18 - by the observer organizations and one - by a physical person. Overall, 70 applications/complaints were submitted to the CEC. Of these, two complaints were upheld, 63 - were not upheld, four were not upheld and one complaint was withdrawn.

A total of 2,897 applications/complaints were received at the District Election Commissions. Of these, 277 complaints were upheld, 245 - were partially upheld, 1,888 applications were not upheld, 428 - were not discussed on merits, seven were resolved on the place, 49 complaints were withdrawn, and three were sent to the relevant bodies for further response.

From the date of calling the elections until the polling day (round I), a total of 55 complaints were submitted to the CEC by observer organizations and election subjects: 38 complaints were submitted by parties, 16 - by observer organizations and one - by a physical person. Of these, two complaints were upheld, 48 - were not upheld⁵⁴, four were not discussed and one complaint was withdrawn. See the information in Annex 7.

From the day of calling the elections until the polling day (I round), a total of 415 complaints were submitted to the DEC: 229 complaints were submitted by the parties and 186 - by the observer organizations. Of these, 33 complaints were upheld, 23 - were partially upheld, 341 - were not upheld, 10 were not discussed, five complaints were withdrawn and three appeals were sent to the relevant bodies for further response. See the information in Annex 8.

54 These complaints were not discussed because they were filed by unauthorized persons (although the CEC investigated the complaints on its own initiative and made appropriate decisions).

On the Election Day (I round) and during the following period, 1,840 complaints were submitted to the District Election Commissions: 1,235 complaints were submitted by the parties, 599 - by observer organizations, three - by the initiative groups, one - by a media organization and two complaints were sent by physical persons. Of these, 170 complaints were upheld, 182 - were partially upheld, 1,090 - were not upheld, 354 - were not discussed, seven were resolved on the place and 37 appeals were withdrawn. See the information in Annex 9.

In the second round of the elections, a total of 15 complaints were submitted to the CEC by observer organizations and election subjects, out of which, 13 complaints were sent by parties and two - by organizations. Of these, 15 complaints were not upheld. See the information in Annex 10.

From the day of calling the second round of the elections until the polling day, 148 complaints were submitted to the District Election Commissions, out of which 110 appeals were submitted by the parties and 38 - by the observer organizations. Of these, 11 complaints were upheld, two were partially upheld, 121 - were not upheld, 11 appeals were not discussed on merits and three complaints were withdrawn. See the information in Annex 11.

On the Election Day of the second round and during the following period, 494 complaints were submitted to the District Election Commissions, out of which 284 appeals were sent by the parties, 208 - by observer organizations, one - by the initiative group and one complaint- by the media organization. Of these, 63 complaints were upheld, 38 - were partially upheld, 336 - were not upheld, 53 were not discussed on merits and four complaints were withdrawn. See the information in Annex 12.

Ten protocols on administrative violations were drawn up due to the violation of the election legislation by the relevant authorized persons designated by the CEC Chairperson and District Election Commissions. See the information in Annex 13.

The statistics of complaints submitted to the District Election Commissions are prepared on the basis of the information officially sent and reflected in the complaints registry on the CEC website.

The CEC Advisory Group

According to the amendments to the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, the CEC Advisory Group⁵⁵ was set up for the election period. It included representatives of local non-governmental organizations and the Public Defender’s Office.

55 August 13, 2021 CEC Decree №156/2021.

The Advisory Group was an advisory body of the CEC and its decision was of a recommendatory nature. It was authorized to submit recommendations to the CEC regarding the process of reviewing electoral disputes at the CEC and District Election Commissions, including the review procedure, search for necessary materials and/or examination of the relevant evidence. The Chairperson of the Advisory Group or a group member designated by him/her could also attend the process of recounting the voting results in the District Election Commissions.

On August 6, the CEC held the meeting with the representatives of 15 local NGOs and two international organizations, who had been registered as observers during the last three general elections⁵⁶.

The CEC took steps to provide legal, organizational, technical and logistical support to the Group. Nonetheless, there were not sufficient resources and will for constructive cooperation based on mutual respect among the actors involved from the third sector.

On September 19, based on the statements of some members of the CEC Advisory Group, the CEC made a decision to annul the decree on the establishment of the Advisory Group⁵⁷.

56 The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) and Transparency International Georgia (TI) - two non-governmental organizations invited to set up the Advisory Group, did not participate in the process, although the Election Administration offered the non-governmental sector to submit their opinions regarding the procedure for electing the members of the Advisory Group.

57 September 19, 2021 CEC Decree №285/2021.

XVI. Financial and Material Support of Electoral Processes

The CEC approved the rules on the distribution and use of the funds allocated by the state for the Municipal Elections (budget estimate) as well as the rules on the distribution and use of the funds required by the District Election Commissions for the elections. Funds were allocated for the DEC's to cover the election-related expenses.

According to the decision of the CEC, the amounts of remuneration of the members and officials of the Precinct Election Commissions were determined.

In order to provide material resources for the elections, the CEC determined the quantity/volume of goods to be purchased and carried out the relevant procurement procedures taking into account the updated number of voters and available supplies.

In addition, in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, all the disinfectants needed to equip the district and Precinct Election Commissions were procured and the DEC's were provided with logistics.

Election Budget

The CEC approved an election budget for the Municipal Elections by issuing the July 8, 2021 CEC Ordinance №20/2021, and the budget for the second round – by the October 16, 2021 CEC Ordinance №75/2021. In total, the approved budget for the both rounds amounted to 55,093,900 GEL. Total of 10,260,000 GEL was allocated from the Reserve Fund of the Government of Georgia to partially finance the second round.

Funding of DEC's

Funding of DEC's for the first round of the Elections was approved by the July 8, 2021 CEC Ordinance №21/2021 and for the second round – by the October 16, 2021 CEC Ordinance №76/2021. By the above ordinances, funds were allocated for DEC's to cover expenditures related to organizing the elections.

Total of 5,283,968 GEL was allocated for DEC's to cover the mentioned expenditures related to the first and second rounds. Unutilized funds – 453,119 GEL was returned to the state budget. In total, 4,830,849 GEL was actually spent by DEC's

58 July 8, 2021 CEC Resolution №20/2021.

59 July 8, 2021 CEC Resolution №21/2021.

60 August 18, 2021 CEC Decree №167/2021.

61 For distribution and use of the funds allocated by the state (budget estimate), see Annex 14.

Remuneration of PEC Members

In total, 21,477,437 GEL was allocated for remuneration of heads and members of PECs during the First and second rounds of the elections.

Expenditure on both rounds of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections amounted to 53,990,181 GEL.

State Procurement and Provision of Material Resources

In order to provide material resources for the Municipal Elections, the CEC determined the quantity/volume of goods/services to be purchased and carried out procurement procedures taking into account the updated number of voters and available supplies. The necessary inventory for the elections was distributed to the District Election Commissions in the centralized manner.

A total of 483 contracts were signed during the election period, including 12 (2.48%) electronic tenders, 48 (9.94%) consolidated tenders, 26 (5.38%) simplified procurements, and 336 (69.6%) simplified procurements in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Article 52 of the Election Code of Georgia. Total of 61 (12.6%) contracts were concluded within the reserve fund.

State Procurement and Provision of Material Resources

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62 For the information on expenditures for the First and Second Rounds of the Municipal Elections, see Annex 15.



საქართველოს პრეზიდენტის
ბ ა ნ კ ა რ ბ უ ლ ე ბ ა

N02/08/01 2021 წლის 2 აგვისტო ქ.თბილისი

მუნიციპალიტეტის ორგანოების არჩევნების
დანიშვნის შესახებ

საქართველოს კონსტიტუციის 52-ე მუხლის პირველი პუნქტის „გ“ ქვეპუნქტისა და საქართველოს ორგანული კანონის „საქართველოს საარჩევნო კოდექსის“ 133-ე მუხლის პირველი და მე-2 პუნქტების შესაბამისად, მუნიციპალიტეტის წარმომადგენლობითი ორგანოს - საკრებულოს და თვითმმართველი ქალაქის/თვითმმართველი თემის მერის მორიგი არჩევნები დაინიშნოს 2021 წლის 2 ოქტომბერს.



პრემიერ-მინისტრი

ირაკლი ღარიბაშვილი

Election Subjects Participating in the Municipal Elections according to Sequence of Submitting their Applications			
№	Name of the Election Subject	Head of the Subject	Sequence Number
1	"Mamuli"	Chair Teimuraz Bobokhidze	15
2	"Nation" - Mirian Mirianashvili	Chair Mirian Mirianashvili	31
3	Alliance of Democrats	Chair Giorgi Buchukuri	42
4	(Sakhe+)	Chair Ednar Bagrationi	40
5	Ana Dolidze – "For People"	Chair Ana Dolidze	48
6	"Free Choice - New Alternative"	Chair Giorgi Pataridze	26
7	Left-wing Alliance	Authorized Person/Organiaztion Secretary Konstantine Gugushvili	34
8	Davit Chichinadze – "Tribuna"	Chair Davit Chichinadze	35
9	"Our United Georgia"	Chair Isaki Giorgadze	23
10	"Third Way"	Chair Giorgi Tumanishvili	43
11	Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi – "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia"	Chair Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi Secretary General Irma Inashvili	8
12	"Progress and Freedom"	Chair Nikoloz Gvritishvili Secretary General Lasha Chocheli	21
13	Zurab Girchi Japaridze: "Girchi - More Freedom"	Chair Zurab Girchi Japaridze	45

14	European Democrats	Chair Paata Davitaia	6
15	"Gakharia - For Georgia"	Chair Giorgi Gakharia	25
16	"Girchi"	Chair Iago Khvichia	36
17	"Sakartvelo"	Chair Giorgi Liluashvili	13
18	"Snap Elections - United Georgia - Democratic Movement"	Chair Nino Burjanadze	3
19	"Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia"	Chair Irakli Kobakhidze Secretary General Kakha Kaladze	41
20	"Giorgi Laghidze - Future Georgia"	Chair Giorgi Laghidze	20
21	"Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens"	Chair Aleksandre Elisashvili	7
22	"Mamuka Tuskadze - Social Justice"	Chair Mamuka Tuskadze	29
23	"Gachechiladze - the Green Party"	Chair Giorgi Gachechiladze	50
24	"Tamaz Mechiauri for United Georgia"	Chair Tamaz Mechiauri	38
25	"Georgian Development Party"	Chair Ketevan Gogoladze	22
26	"Law and Justice"	Chair Tamar Charkviani	12
27	"United National Movement"	Chair Nikanor Melia Executive Secretary Koba Nakopia	5
28	"European Georgia - Movement for Liberty"	Chair Giorgi Bokeria Chair of Political Council Giorgi Tsereteli Secretary General Akaki Bobokhidze	2

29	"Reformers"	Chair Davit Mirotadze	49
30	"Elene Khoshtaria - Droa"	Chair Elene Khoshtaria	32
31	"Whites"	Chair Teimuraz Shashiashvili	27
32	"European Socialists"	Chair Pridon Injia	19
33	"Gogi Tsulaia - New Christian-Democrats"	Chair Giorgi Tsulaia	14
34	"Shalva Natelashvili - Georgian Labour Party"	Chair Shalva Natelashvili	10
35	"Reformer"	Chair Tornike Janashvili	17
36	"Tavisupleba - Zviad Gamsakhurdias Gza"	Chair Malkhazi Gorgaslidze	39
37	"Third Power - Strategy Aghmashenebeli"	Chair Giorgi Vashadze	1
38	"Jondi Baghaturia - Georgian Troupe"	Chair Jondo Baghaturia	18
39	"Free Georgia (Zaza Khatiaashvili, Kakha Kukava, Grigol Jojua)"	Chair Kakha Kukava	37
40	"Socialist Workers' Party"	Chair Tamaz Japoshvili	30
41	"Peoples Party"	Chair Ivane (Mamuka) Giorgadze	44
42	"Lelo"	Chair Mamuka Khazaradze	9
43	"Georgian Social-Democratic Party"	Chair Avtandil Veltauri	24
Parties with Denied/Canceled Registration			
№	Name of the Election Subject	Head of the Party	Note
1	Grigol Oniani - XX Century	Chair Grigol Oniani	Due to non-submission of the list of supporters
2	Georgian National Unity Party	Chair Giorgi Chincharauli	Due to applying the application late

3	Free Democrats	Chair Tamar Kekenadze	Based on a personal statement
4	Movement “State for People”	Chair Nika Machutadze	Due to non-correction of the defect
5	Green Earth	Chair Nugzar Meladze	Due to non-correction of the defect identified in the party list
6	Eka Beselia – “For Justice”	Chair Eka Beselia	Due to non-submission of the party list and majoritarian candidates
7	Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic Way	Chair Shorena Gardapkhadze	
8	National Democratic Party (NDP)	Acting Chair Zurab Ghonghadze	
9	Republicans	Chair Khatuna Samnidze	

Initiative Groups that Applied to the CEC and were Denied Registration

№	Composition of the Initiative Group	Mayoral Candidates of Tbilisi	Status
1	Gela Sisauri; Eka Kartoziia; Shota Peikrishvili; Tea Chanturia; Nana Nanava; Vakhtang Janiashvili	Revaz Shalibashvili	Refusal to register (due to non-submission of the list of supporters; pursuant to the Articles 141 and 167)
2	Tea Benashvili; Giorgi Lashkarashvili; Aleksandre Mamuchishvili; Davit Tsereteli; Davit Bokuchava	Giorgi Khitarishvili	Refusal to register (due to non-submission of the list of supporters; pursuant to the Articles 141 and 167)
3	Giorgi Esitashvili; Mamuka Mirtskhulava; Zurab Natsvlishvili; Ramaz Chichinadze; Davit Melikishvili	Grigoli Deisadze	Refusal to register (due to non-submission of the list of supporters; pursuant to the Articles 141 and 167)



Central Election Commission of Georgia

Summary Protocol

On the Voting Results of the October 2, 2021 Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia (First Round)

Tbilisi

October 16, 2021

During the session on October 16, 2021, the Central Election Commission of Georgia summed up the voting results of the October 2, 2021 Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia (First Round), pursuant to the subparagraph "k", paragraph 1 of the Article 14, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Article 76, paragraph 2 of the Article 166 and paragraph 1 of the Article 169 of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" and determined:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Total number of voters: | 1 002 900 |
| 2. Number of voters participating in the elections: | 494 681 |
| 3. Number of the ballot papers annulled: | 13 236 |
| 4. Number of votes received by the electoral subjects: | |

№	Name and surname	Number of votes received	%
1	Tamar Kekenadze	2831	0.589%
5	Nikanori Melia	163489	34.011%
8	George Lomia	7033	1.463%
9	Ana Bibilashvili	12161	2.530%
10	Mikheil Kumsishvili	3916	0.815%
13	Giorgi Kutateladze	647	0.135%
15	Teimuraz Bobokhidze	344	0.072%
20	Giorgi Laghidze	475	0.099%
23	Arinze Richard Ogbunuju	2922	0.608%
25	Giorgi Gakharia	45257	9.415%
29	Ketevani Nakashidze	309	0.064%
30	Evgeni Ghviniashvili	399	0.083%
37	Zaza Khatiashvili	1720	0.358%
41	Kakha Kaladze	216344	45.006%
48	Ana Dolidze	21935	4.563%
50	Giorgi Gachechiladze	914	0.190%

5. №5 Nikanori Melia and №41 Kakha Kaladze will participate in the Second Round of the October 2, 2021 Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia.

Commission Chairperson /Giorgi Kalandarishvili/

Commission Secretary /Giorgi Javakhishvili/

(Signed, sealed)



Central Election Commission of Georgia

Summary Protocol

On the Results of the October 2, 2021 Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia) Sakrebulo Elections

Held through Proportional Electoral System

Tbilisi

October 16, 2021

During the session on October 16, 2021, the Central Election Commission of Georgia summed up the voting results of the October 2, 2021 Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia) Sakrebulo Elections held through the proportional electoral system, pursuant to the subparagraph "k", paragraph 1 of the Article 14, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Article 76, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Article 150 and paragraph 2 of the Article 156 of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" and determined:

1. Total number of voters: **1 002 900**
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: **494 676**
3. Number of the ballot papers annulled: **15 100**
4. Number of votes received by the electoral subjects:

Nº	Name of the party	Number of votes received	%	Number of mandates
1	"Third Power - Strategy Aghmashenebeli"	4817	1.006%	
2	"European Georgia - Movement for Liberty"	5575	1.164%	
5	"United National Movement"	133926	27,962%	13
6	European Democrats	750	0.157%	

7	"Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens"	11743	2.452%	
8	Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi – “Alliance of Patriots of Georgia”	7915	1.653%	
9	“Lelo”	17373	3.627%	2
10	"Shalva Natelashvili - Georgian Labour Party"	6293	1.314%	
13	"Sakartvelo"	763	0.159%	
14	"Gogi Tsulaia - New Christian-Democrats"	403	0.084%	
17	"Reformer"	336	0.070%	
18	"Jondi Baghaturia - Georgian Troupe"	475	0.099%	
19	"European Socialists"	231	0.048%	
22	"Georgian Development Party"	160	0.033%	
24	"Georgian Social-Democratic Party"	146	0.030%	
25	“Gakharia - For Georgia”	42596	8.894%	4
26	"Free Choice - New Alternative"	219	0.046%	
29	"Mamuka Tuskadze - Social Justice"	197	0.041%	
30	"Socialist Workers' Party"	263	0.055%	
31	“Nation” - Mirian Mirianashvili	565	0.118%	
32	"Elene Khoshtaria - Droa"	10262	2.143%	
34	Left-wing Alliance	107	0.022%	
35	Davit Chichinadze – “Tribuna”	1576	0.329%	
36	“Girchi”	7695	1.607%	
37	"Free Georgia (Zaza Khatiasvili, Kakha Kukava, Grigol Jojua)"	1077	0.225%	
41	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	193486	40.398%	19
43	“Third Way”	264	0.055%	
44	"Peoples Party"	1022	0.213%	
45	Zurab Girchi Japaridze: “Girchi - More Freedom”	15799	3.299%	1
48	Ana Dolidze – “For People”	12337	2.576%	1
50	"Gachechiladze - the Green Party"	579	0.121%	

5. Elected members of Sakrebulo of City Tbilisi (the capital of Georgia), through the proportional electoral system:

№41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia

1. Levan Zhorzholiani
2. Otari Grigolia
3. Tinatin Nibloshvili
4. Giorgi Chakvetadze
5. Nikoloz Kakhetelidze
6. Nino Vardosanidze
7. Akaki Aladashvili
8. Giorgi Akhvlediani
9. Nino Rukhadze
10. Levan Abashidze
11. Gurami Okropiridze
12. Ana Kakabadze
13. Vladimer Bozhadze
14. Aleksandre Khujadze
15. Mariam Zakariashvili
16. Levani Davitashvili
17. Shalva Ogbaidze
18. Natia Modebadze
19. Levan Arveladze

№5 “United National Movement”

1. Sophio Japaridze
2. Tornike Bikashvili
4. Irakli Edzgveradze
5. Irakli Nadiradze
6. Lile Liparteliani

№25 “Gakharia - For Georgia”

1. Levan Dolidze
2. Zaza Tavadze
3. Salome Kobaladze
4. Giorgi Sharashidze

№9 “Lelo”

1. Badri Japaridze
- 2 Saba Buadze

№45 “Zurab Girchi Japaridze: Girchi - More Freedom”

1. Tengiz Kirtadze

№48 Ana Dolidze – “For People”

1. Aleksandre Ratishvili

Commission Chairperson

/Giorgi Kalandarishvili/

Commission Secretary

/Giorgi Javakhishvili/

(Signed, sealed)



Central Election Commission of Georgia

Summary Protocol

On the Voting Results of the October 2, 2021 Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia (Second Round)

Tbilisi

November 13, 2021

During the session on November 13, 2021, the Central Election Commission of Georgia summed up the voting results of the October 2, 2021 Mayoral Elections of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia (Second Round), pursuant to the subparagraph "k", paragraph 1 of the Article 14, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Article 76, paragraph 2 of the Article 166, paragraph 1 of the Article 169, and paragraph 3 of the Article 169¹, of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" and determined:

1. Total number of voters: **1 002 525**
2. Number of voters participating in the elections: **480 302**
3. Number of the ballot papers annulled: **14 867**
4. Number of votes received by the electoral subjects:

Nº	Name and surname	Number of votes received	%
5	Nikanor Melia	206 593	44,393%
41	Kakha Kaladze	258 776	55,607%

5. №41 **Kakha Kaladze** is an elected Mayor of Tbilisi City - Capital of Georgia.

Commission Chairperson /Giorgi Kalandarishvili/

Commission Secretary /Giorgi Javakhishvili/

(Signed, sealed)



Central Election Commission of Georgia

Summary Protocol

On the Results of the October 2, 2021 Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia)

Sakrebulo Elections

Tbilisi

November 13, 2021

During the session on November 13, 2021, the Central Election Commission of Georgia summed up the voting results of the October 2, 2021 Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia) Sakrebulo Elections, pursuant to the paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Article 76 of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia", CEC Summary Protocol of October 16, 2021 on the Voting Results of the October 2, 2021 Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia) Sakrebulo Elections held through the proportional electoral system, summary protocols of October 16, 2021 drawn up by №1 Mtatsminda, №2 Vake, №4 Krtsanisi, №5 Isani, №6 Samgori, №7 Chughureti, №8 Didube, №9 Nadzaladevi and №10 Gldani District Election Commissions and summary protocol of November 10 drawn up by №3 Saburtalo District Election Commission on the voting results of Tbilisi Sakrebulo Elections held through the majoritarian electoral system and determined:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Total number of voters: | 1 002 900 |
| 2. Number of voters participating in the elections: | 494 676 |
| 3. Number of the ballot papers annulled: | 15 100 |
| 4. Number of votes received by the electoral subjects: | |

Nº	Name of the party	Number of votes received	%	Number of mandates
1	"Third Power - Strategy Aghmashenebeli"	4817	1.006%	
2	"European Georgia - Movement for Liberty"	5575	1.164%	
5	"United National Movement"	133926	27,962%	13
6	European Democrats	750	0.157%	
7	"Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens"	11743	2.452%	
8	Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi – "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia"	7915	1.653%	
9	"Lelo"	17373	3.627%	2
10	"Shalva Natelashvili - Georgian Labour Party"	6293	1.314%	
13	"Sakartvelo"	763	0.159%	
14	"Gogi Tsulaia - New Christian-Democrats"	403	0.084%	
17	"Reformer"	336	0.070%	
18	"Jondi Baghaturia - Georgian Troupe"	475	0.099%	
19	"European Socialists"	231	0.048%	
22	"Georgian Development Party"	160	0.033%	
24	"Georgian Social-Democratic Party"	146	0.030%	
25	"Gakharia - For Georgia"	42596	8.894%	4
26	"Free Choice - New Alternative"	219	0.046%	
29	"Mamuka Tuskadze - Social Justice"	197	0.041%	
30	"Socialist Workers' Party"	263	0.055%	
31	"Nation" - Mirian Mirianashvili	565	0.118%	
32	"Elene Khoshtaria - Droa"	10262	2.143%	
34	Left-wing Alliance	107	0.022%	
35	Davit Chichinadze – "Tribuna"	1576	0.329%	
36	"Girchi"	7695	1.607%	
37	"Free Georgia (Zaza Khatiaishvili, Kakha Kukava, Grigol Jojua)"	1077	0.225%	
41	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	193486	40.398%	19
43	"Third Way"	264	0.055%	
44	"Peoples Party"	1022	0.213%	
45	Zurab Girchi Japaridze: "Girchi - More Freedom"	15799	3.299%	1
48	Ana Dolidze – "For People"	12337	2.576%	1
50	"Gachechiladze - the Green Party"	579	0.121%	

5. Elected members of Sakrebulo of City Tbilisi (the capital of Georgia), through the proportional electoral system:

№41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia

1. Levan Zhorzholiani
2. Otari Grigolia
3. Tinatin Nibloshvili
4. Giorgi Chakvetadze
5. Nikoloz Kakhetelidze
6. Nino Vardosanidze
7. Akaki Aladashvili
8. Giorgi Akhvlediani
9. Nino Rukhadze
10. Levan Abashidze
11. Gurami Okropiridze
12. Ana Kakabadze
13. Vladimer Bozhadze
14. Aleksandre Khujadze
15. Mariam Zakariashvili
16. Levani Davitashvili
17. Shalva Ogbaidze
18. Natia Modebadze
19. Levan Arveladze

№5 “United National Movement”

1. Sophio Japaridze
2. Tornike Bikashvili
3. Ana Gogoladze
4. Irakli Edzgveradze
5. Irakli Nadiradze

6. Lile Liparteliani
7. Mamuka Gugeshashvili
8. Mikheil Kakauridze
9. Nino Kvitaishvili
10. Shota Grigolia
11. Giorgi Oniani
12. Barbara Jimeli Sulashvili
13. Zviad Kuprava

№25 “Gakharia - For Georgia”

1. Levan Dolidze
2. Zaza Tavadze
3. Salome Kobaladze
4. Giorgi Sharashidze

№9 “Lelo”

1. Badri Japaridze
- 2 Saba Buadze

№45 “Zurab Girchi Japaridze: Girchi - More Freedom”

1. Tengiz Kirtadze

№48 Ana Dolidze – “For People”

1. Aleksandre Ratishvili

6. Elected members of Sakrebulo of City Tbilisi (the capital of Georgia), through the majoritarian electoral system:

Name and number of the Local Majoritarian Election District	Name and surname	Nominating party
01 Mtatsminda	Zurab Abashidze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
02 Vake	Giorgi Tkemaladze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
03 Saburtalo	Avtandil Tsintsadze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
04 Krtsanisi	Levan Japaridze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
05 Isani	Kakhaberi Labuchidze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
06 Samgori	Revaz Sokhadze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
07 Chughureti	Zurab Chikviladze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
08 Didube	Givi Chkhartishvili	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
09 Nadzaladevi	Irakli Kheladze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
10 Gldani	Konstantine Zarnadze	Nº41 Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia

Commission Chairperson

/Giorgi Kalandarishvili/

Commission Secretary

/Giorgi Javakhishvili/

(Signed, sealed)

First Round of the Elections - Complaints Submitted to the CEC

Result	Political Party	38	Non-Governmental Organization	16	Physical Person	Total
Satisfied	Free Georgia	1	Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1		2
Partially Satisfied	David Tarkhan-Mouravi, Irma Inashvili - Alliance of Patriots of Georgia	1	Young Generation	2	1	48
	European Georgia – Movement for Liberty	1	Youth Center - Our Generation 1921	1		
	Elene Khoshtaria - "Droa"	1	APM Georgia	2		
	United National Movement	25	Freedom Institute	1		
	Free Georgia	4	Center for Regional Development and Support	1		
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	7		
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1		
Not Discussed	Girchi - More Freedom	4				4
Application was Withdrawn	Free Georgia	1				1
Total		38		16	1	55

ANNEX 8

Information on the Applications/Complaints Submitted to District Election Commissions prior to the E-Day of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections					
Title	Political Party		Non-Governmental Organization		Total
Satisfied	United National Movement	21	American Support League	3	33
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	League of Young Diplomats	3	
			Trade Union of Education	1	
			Center for Democratic Changes	1	
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy	3	
Partially Satisfied	United National Movement	6	American Support League	1	23
			Trade Union of Education	5	
			APM Georgia	3	
			Light of the Future	8	
Not Satisfied	Davit Chichinadze – Tribuna	1	Human Rights Center	2	341
	United National Movement	181	American Support League	5	
	European Georgia — Movement for Liberty	3	League of Young Diplomats	1	
	Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli	1	Young Generation	23	
	Third Way	1	Trade Union of Education	32	
	Lelo for Georgia	2	Center for Democratic Changes	3	
	New Christian Democrats	1	Georgian Young Lawyers' Association	5	
			APM Georgia	29	
			United Civil Movement Multinational Georgia	2	
			Light of the Future	3	
			Transparency International - Georgia	6	
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy	33	
			Public Opinion Research Center	4	
			Georgian Youth Union	1	
			Civil Platform 20/20	2	
Not Discussed	United National Movement	5	APM Georgia	4	10
			Light of the Future	1	
Application was Withdrawn	United National Movement	3	Trade Union of Education	2	5
Sent to Relevant Body for Further Response	United National Movement	2			3
	Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli	1			
Total Number of Complaints	Political Party	229	Non-Governmental Organization	186	415

ANNEX 9

First Round - Complaints Submitted to District Election Commissions during and after the Election Day								
Result	Political Party	1235	Non-Governmental Organization	599	Initiative Group	Media Organization	Physical Person	Total
Satisfied	United National Movement	41	Human Rights Center	1			1	170
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	19	Center of Development and Democracy	3				
	European Georgia - Movement for Liberty	3	Democratic Society	2				
	Elene Khoshtaria - "Droa"	2	Center for Democratic Changes	1				
	Lelo for Georgia	6	Care and Save Together	1				
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	Freedom Institute	1				
			Transparency International - Georgia	2				
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	60				
			Civil Platform 20/20	2				
			Center for Civic Engagement and Democracy Development	1				
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	21				
			Georgian Future Academy	2				
		72		97	0	0	1	170
Partially Satisfied	United National Movement	39	Human Rights Center	1				182
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	27	Youth Initiative for a Future Georgia	1				
	Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens	4	Center of Development and Democracy	8				
	Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli	1	Care and Save Together	1				
	Elene Khoshtaria - "Droa"	4	This Country is Ours	3				
	Lelo for Georgia	8	Transparency International - Georgia	4				
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	53				
			Civil Platform 20/20	3				
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	24				

		84		98	0	0	0	182
	United National Movement	349	Human Rights Center	7	3			1090
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	284	American Support League	1				
	Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens	6	International Analytical Institute	6				
	Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli	33	Youth Initiative for Democracy	1				
	European Georgia - Movement for Liberty	22	New Generation Democratic Elections	1				
	Elene Khoshtaria - "Droa"	9	Trade Union of Education	1				
	Lelo for Georgia	25	Center of Development and Democracy	7				
	Labor Party of Georgia	1	Democratic Society	10				
Not Satisfied	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	2	Care and Save Together	4				
			This Country is Ours	1				
			Freedom Institute	1				
			Union "Green Earth"	1				
			United Civil Movement Multinational Georgia	7				
			Light of the Future	2				
			Transparency International - Georgia	20				
			Public Opinion Research Center	1				
			Public Union - Georgia First	2				
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	215				
			Civic Alliance for Development	3				
			Civil Platform 20/20	10				
			Center for Civic Engagement and Democracy Development	3				
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	48				
			Georgian Youth Union	1				
			Georgian Academy of the Future	3				
		731		356	3	0	0	1090

Not Discussed	United National Movement	89	Human Rights Center	1		1	1	354
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	188	Center of Development and Democracy	1				
	Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens	1	Freedom Institute	1				
	Giorgi Vashadze - Strategy Aghmashenebeli	5	Union "Green Earth"	1				
	Girchi - More Freedom	1	Light of the Future	8				
	David Tarkhan-Mouravi, Irma Inashvili - Alliance of Patriots of Georgia	2	Public Opinion Research Center	2				
	European Georgia - Movement for Liberty	3	Public Union - Georgia First	1				
	Lelo for Georgia	11	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	23				
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	8	Civil Platform 20/20	4				
	Tamaz Mechiauri - "For United Georgia"	1	Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1				
		309		43	0	1	1	354
Resolved on the Place	United National Movement	3	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	1				7
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	3						
		6		1	0	0	0	7
Application was Withdrawn	United National Movement	18	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	3				37
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	15		1				
		33		4	0	0	0	37
Total Number of Complaints	Political Party	1235	Observer Organization	599	3	1	2	1840

Second Round - Complaints Submitted to the CEC

Result	Political party	13	Non-governmental Organizations	2	Total
Not satisfied	United National Movement	13	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy	1	15
			Center for Civic Engagement and Democracy Development	1	
	Total	13		2	15

ANNEX 11

Information on the Applications/Complaints Submitted to District Election Commissions prior to the E-Day of the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections (Second Round)					
	Political Party		Non-Governmental Organization		Total
Applications/complaints submitted	Applications/complaints in total	110	Applications/complaints in total	38	148
Satisfied	United National Movement	9	League of Young Diplomats	1	11
			Light of the Future	1	
Partially Satisfied	United National Movement	2			2
Not Satisfied	United National Movement	85	Barristers and Lawyers International Observatory	1	121
			Youth for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights in the Caucasus	1	
			APM Georgia	19	
			Union "Green Earth"	1	
			Light of the Future	9	
			International Women's Movement for Equality	1	
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1	
			Human Rights Defenders for Justice	3	
Not Discussed	United National Movement	11			11
Application was Withdrawn	United National Movement	3			3
Total		110		38	148

ANNEX 12

Complaints Submitted to District Election Commissions during and after the Election Day, Second Round									
Result	Political Party	284	Non-Governmental Organization	208	Initiative Group	1	Media Organization	1	494
Satisfied	United National Movement	23	Youth for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights in the Caucasus	1					63
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	1	Union "Green Earth"	1					
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	Transparency International - Georgia	3					
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	21					
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	12					
Partially Satisfied	United National Movement	13	Transparency International - Georgia	8					38
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	8					
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	9					
Not Satisfied	United National Movement	216	League of Young Diplomats	1	1		1		336
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	4	Trade Union of Education	1					
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	APM Georgia	6					
			United Civil Movement Multinational Georgia	2					
			Movement for Unity and Consolidation of Georgia	1					
			Transparency International - Georgia	15					
			International Women's Movement for Equality	1					
			International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	59					
			Civil Platform 20/20	1					
			Center for Civic Engagement and Democracy Development	1					
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	21					
			Human Rights Defenders for Justice	4					
Not Discussed	United National Movement	21	Alternative "Njo"	1					53
	Gakharia "For Georgia"	1	Youth for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights in the Caucasus	1					
	Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	1	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	1					
			Civil Platform 20/20	25					
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1					
			Georgian Youth Union	1					
Application was Withdrawn	United National Movement	2	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	1					4
			Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)	1					
Total Number of Complaints		284		208	1		1		494

October 2, 2021 Local Self-government Elections						
Nº	Person/body who draw up the protocol on administrative offence	Date of drawing up the protocol/Date of fine	Offender (name, surname, position)	Relevant article of the administrative offence	Sanction	Court decision and its date
1	Nº13 Sighnaghi District Election Commission	October 8, 2021	Leila Mchedlishvili - Deputy Chairperson of Nº33 Precinct Election Commission	Article 79	Verbal note	October 13, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
2	Chairperson of Nº17 Telavi District Election Commission	September 17, 2021	Lia Natatrishvili - Member of Nº50 Precinct Election Commission	Article 79	Verbal note	September 21, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
3	Nº27 Mtskheta District Election Commission	October 3, 2021	Tsira Pkhovelishvili - Chairperson of Nº6 Precinct Election Commission	Article 79	Verbal note	October 8, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
4	Nº37 Akhaltsikhe District Election Commission	October 14, 2021	Giorgi Arveladze - Mayoral candidate	Article 79	Verbal note	October 20, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
5	Nº46 Lentekhi District Election Commission	September 19, 2021	Madona Chankseliani - Member of Nº7 Precinct Election Commission	Article 79	Verbal note	September 22, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
6	Nº60 Ozurgeti District Election Commission	September 20, 2021	Konstantine Sharashenidze - Acting Mayor and a mayoral candidate	Article 88	ბოჭყალიშვიტი შენიშვნა	September 28, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
7	Nº60 Ozurgeti District Election Commission	October 3, 2021	Tamriko Vanadze - Member of Nº38 Precinct Election Commission	Article 79	Verbal note	October 8, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
8	Nº61 Lanchkhuti District Election Commission	September 22, 2021	Eka Gujabidze - Deputy Mayor of Lanchkhuti	Article 79	Verbal note	September 30, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
9	CEC Chairperson	October 12, 2021	Kakhaber Kuchava - Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia	Article 79	Verbal note	October 19, 2021. The court found guilty and gave a verbal note (I instance)
10	CEC Chairperson	November, 2021	Political Union "Lelo for Georgia"	Article 186	Fine - 1200 GEL	By the Court Decision of November 26, 2021, P/U "Lelo for Georgia" was fined

Program Code	Budget Estimate	Amount (GEL)
Total	Central Election Commission of Georgia	55,093,900
	Expenditures	53,386,500
	Remuneration	30,430,822
	Goods and services	17,684,678
	Other costs	5,271,000
	Increase in non-financial assets	1,707,400
06 04 01	Election Activities	53,827,080
	Expenditures	52,119,680
	Remuneration	30,101,900
	Goods and services	16,746,780
	Other costs	5,271,000
	Increase in non-financial assets	1,707,400
06 04 02	Capacity Building for Election Officials	1,266,820
	Expenditures	1,266,820
	Remuneration	328,922
	Goods and services	937,898

Information on the Expenditures Related to the October 2, 2021 Municipal Elections of Georgia		
N	Definition/Name of Expenses	Expenditures (in thousands of GEL)
1	Remuneration of the Election Administration	30,103,813
	Remuneration of Central, District and Precinct Election Commissions	
2	Remuneration of contract employees	2,048,702
	Remuneration of additional employees hired by the Central Election Commission during the election period	
3	Business trip	27,705
	Expenditures on business trips of the CEC and District Election Commissions and participation in observation missions	
4	Organizing the elections in electoral districts	4,830,849
	Costs of arranging district/precinct election commissions (related to office, transport, communications, support staff and other purposes)	
5	Advertising campaign	1,985,974
	Costs of creating an advertising concept, producing-displaying advertising products and media monitoring	
6	Print service	2,323,209
	Costs of printing ballot papers, demonstration/summary protocols, normative acts and other electoral materials	
7	Printing equipment/printing materials	878,962
	Costs of purchasing/fixing printing equipment and necessary materials for printing equipment	
8	Election inventory	2,178,549
	Expenses of equipping the polling stations (polling booths, ballot boxes, ink liquids, detectors, uniforms of precinct commission members, precinct and registrars' seals, ruler of a list, ballot paper envelopes and purchase of all other electoral inventory)	
9	Computer hardware/software	1,868,391
	Costs of purchasing/renewing computer equipment, technical equipment and software for the Election Administration	
10	Telecommunication services	61,023
	Costs of the Internet and telephone services of the Election Administration	
11	Arrangement of the Election Administration infrastructure	1,628,440
	Expenditures of arranging the Election Administration building structures (current/capital repair) and other election infrastructural projects (related to furniture, equipment, amenities)	
12	Representation expenses	324,222
	Representation expenses related to reception of guests/observers invited to the elections, organization of events by the CEC, interpretation services and other costs	
13	Transportation and postal services	507,635
	Expenses of renting motor vehicles, shipping and distribution of election inventory (including to polling stations located abroad), and fuel	
14	Other goods and services	3,956,145
	Other election purchases/expenses that can not be classified in other categories (leasing of assets, security of CEC and district election commissions, utility payments of the administration, hygiene-sanitary goods, etc.)	
15	Training for the Election Administration officials	1,266,562
	Costs of organizing trainings (remuneration of trainers, printing training materials) for members of Central, District and Precinct Election Commissions	
Total		53,990,181.0

